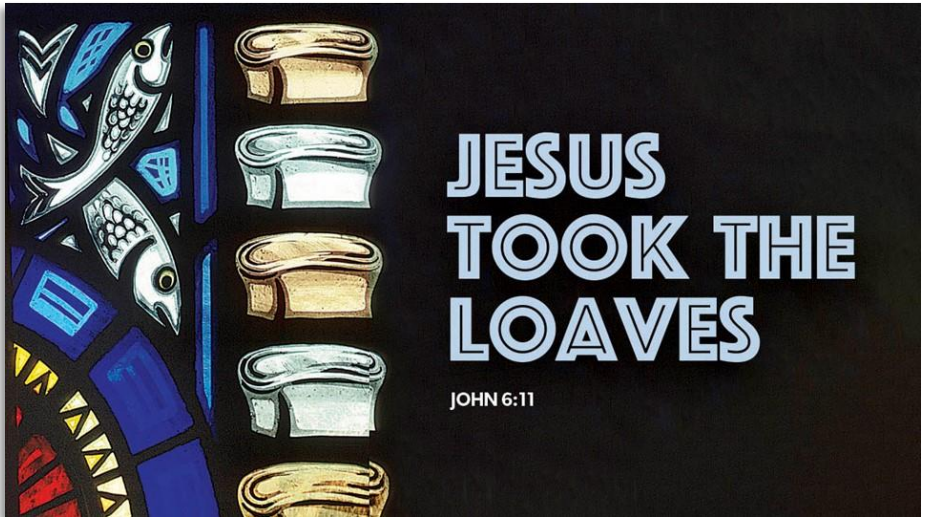




TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 28, 2024

9:30 AM



Bethel Lutheran Church
1009 18th Avenue SW
Great Falls, MT 59404
406-761-1543

Email: bethelgf.church@gmail.com
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A congregation of the Montana Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Large print bulletins are available, please see the ushers for a copy.

As we gather for worship and prepare our hearts, we would ask that you please silence your cell phones for the duration of the service.

INTRODUCTION

Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG

ELW 592 Just As I Am, Without One Plea [1,2,3]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,

there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE

Dakota Road Mercy On This Fallen World

R. Have mercy on this fallen world. Have mercy on us. Have mercy on this fallen world, mercy Lord have mercy on us..

*1. For all of the days that have fallen apart, have mercy.
For every life, for every heart, have mercy.
For all those who hunger each day, have mercy.
For all of the times that we turn away. R.*

*2. For all who have fears that come with the night, have mercy.
For all those who need to be held in the light, have mercy.
For all of creation through famine or feast, have mercy.
For all of the world to live in your peace. R.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God,
**you have placed within the hearts
of all your children a longing for your word
and a hunger for your truth.
Grant that we may know your Son
to be the true bread of heaven
and share this bread with all the world,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

FIRST READING: 2 KINGS 4:42-44

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough

food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:10-18

All your works shall praise you, O LORD,
and your faithful ones shall bless you.

**They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your power,**

that all people may know of your power
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion
endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all
your words, and loving in all your works.**

The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up those who are bowed down.

**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,
and you give them their food in due season.**

You open wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**You are righteous in all your ways
and loving in all your works.**

You are near to all who call upon you,
to all who call upon you faithfully.

SECOND READING: EPHESIANS 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Chicago Folk LH 102

Sing praise to the Lord, all the earth! Alleluia, Alleluia!
Play music to praise God's name. Alleluia, Alleluia!

The holy gospel according to John the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 6:1-21

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread

for each of them to get a little.” One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Dave Scholten, LPA

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 474 Bread of Life From Heaven [1,2,3]

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Chicago Road Create In Me LH 106

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your spirit free.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.*

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,
**you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

SINGING COMMUNION

Tune is ELW 483 Here is Bread

Here is bread, here is wine

Christ is with us, he is with us.

Break the bread, taste the wine

Christ is with us here.

In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.

In this moment by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

(spoken)

Eternal God our creator,

In you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength.

In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we were still sinners; and for his sake, God forgives + us all our sins. Therefore, it is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

SINGING CONTINUES

Here is grace, here is peace,

Christ is with us, he is with us

*Know his grace, find his peace,
feast in Jesus here.*

***R: In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.***

(spoken)

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

And gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

SINGING CONTINUES

***Here we are joined in one,
Christ is with us, he is with us.***

***We'll proclaim till he comes
Jesus crucified.***

***R: In this bread there is healing, in this cup is life forever.
In this moment by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus first taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. We believe that Christ comes to us in the bread and cup for the forgiveness of sins and new life. Gluten free wafers are available, please let your server know. Choice of red wine and white grape juice offered.

LAMB OF GOD

Chicago Folk LH 109

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.*

*Christ, O Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
give us your peace.*

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

LH 219 One Bread, One Body

ELW 461 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

ELW 464 Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,
**we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.**

**As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. Amen.**

BLESSING AND GODSPEED

Chris Gleason

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 479 *We Come To The Hungry Feast*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

And all God's children said: **Amen.**

SERVING TODAY

Accompanist	Mary Seim, piano;
Lay Assistant	Mindy Leach
Usher	Tammy Good
Tech	Gabe Smith
Projection	TBD
Children's Church	Julia Elkin and Hailey Marr
Hospitality	Marilyn Carlson
Counters	Patty Braget and Tammy Good

Flowers are given by The Pepos Family in celebration of Mathias and Karolina's baptismal birthdays.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We celebrate the **10th Sunday after Pentecost.**

We welcome and thank **Dave Scholten, LPA** presiding in worship this morning. Dave has been authorized by the Bishop of the Montana Synod to provide pastoral services in this congregation this Sunday.

Blessings and Godspeed to **Christopher Gleason**. He will be mobilizing to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas for a Soldier Readiness Program (SRP) mission.

New Adult Forum Book Study to begin August 4th after worship. Future Faith, Ten Challenges Reshaping Christianity in the 21st Century. If you would like Bethel to order a book for you, the cost is \$13.50, sign up on the table in the Narthex.

Budget change meeting for all **Bethel Voting members** after worship on August 18th.

THIS WEEK

Monday 7/29

- Bethel Office Closed

Tuesday 7/30

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Friday 8/2

- Bethel office is closed.
- Aitz Chaim Friday worship 6:00 pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 8/4

- Family Worship led by Dave Scholten, LPA and LOGOs Youth ministry in person and online at 9:30 am
- Adult Forum book study, Future Faith, begins after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Tuesday 8/6

- Electric City Bible Study, Zoom meeting 7:00 am

Thursday 8/8

- Exec Board Zoom meeting 6:30 pm

Friday 8/9

- Bethel office is closed.

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