

Holy Communion
Sunday, July 25, 2021
Pastor - Rev. Harold Usgaard
Organist - Lori Free

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#879 For the Beauty of the Earth**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

Psalm: Psalm 145:10-18

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

Gospel: John 6:1-21

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **#870 We Praise You, O God**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#494 For the Bread Which You Have Broken**

Sending Song: **#842, Oh, Worship the King**

Dismissal

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS
CELEBRATING OUR 139th YEAR
IN HIS SERVICE
1882 - 2021

The Rev. Harold "Huck" Usgaard is a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He retired in 2018 after most recently serving as Assistant to the President for Church Relations at Portico Benefit Services, a ministry of the ELCA.

Huck is Bishop Emeritus of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, having served two six-year terms between 2001 and 2013. Prior to that, he had served as a pastor at Zumbro Lutheran Church in Rochester, MN; at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church in West Allis, WI; and at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Austin, MN. He holds degrees from Luther College and Luther Seminary, and was ordained a pastor in 1973.

Huck and his wife, Lynette, live in Rosemount, MN. They are proud parents to three grown children and two grandsons. This means that much of their time is spent attending their grandsons' basketball games, soccer matches, and concerts... as well as providing dog sitting services for the family. And they couldn't be happier.

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.

If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.

All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.

Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School

**Visit us at BethanyEphraim.org,
and follow our worship service live, and archived,
on the web site.**

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations (*especially*). Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 111. **Tuesday** Romans 15:22-33. **Wednesday** (commemoration of Johann Sebastian Bach, 1750; Heinrich Schütz, 1672; George Frederick Handel, 1759; musicians) Isaiah 25:6-10a. **Thursday** (commemoration of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany; Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, 1030) Psalm 78:23-29. **Friday** 1 Corinthians 11:27-34. **Saturday** Exodus 13:3-10. **10th Sunday after Pentecost** Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35.

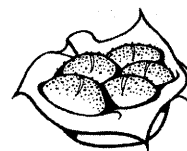
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Celebrate

Sunday, July 25, 2021
9th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Prayer of the Day

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."⁴³ 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.'"⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

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,¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.¹⁶ 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,¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.¹⁸ I pray that you

continued

You o - pen wide your hand and
sat - is - fy the de - sire of ev - 'ry liv - ing thing.

All your works shall praise ¹ you, O LORD,
and your faithful ¹ ones shall bless you.

¹¹They shall tell of the glory ¹ of your kingdom
and speak ¹ of your power,

¹²that all people may know ¹ of your power
and the glorious splendor ¹ of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures through- ¹ out all ages.

You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in ¹ all your works. **R**

¹⁴The LORD upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all wait upon ¹ you, O LORD,
and you give them their food ¹ in due season.

¹⁶You open ¹ wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every ¹ living thing.

¹⁷You are righteous in ¹ all your ways
and loving in ¹ all your works.

¹⁸You are near to all who ¹ call upon you,
to all who call up- ¹ on you faithfully. **R**

may have the power to comprehend,
with all the saints, what is the breadth
and length and height and depth,
¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that
surpasses knowledge, so that you may
be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at
work within us is able to accomplish
abundantly far more than all we can
ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in
the church and in Christ Jesus to all
generations, forever and ever. Amen.

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. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When 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?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus 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. ¹¹Then 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. ¹²When they were satisfied,

he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When 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."

¹⁵When 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.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.