

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost – August 4th, 2024

Introduction to the Day

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

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.

Welcome

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.

Gathering Hymn

“All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly” #461

Prayer of the Day

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Reading – Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and

said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Gospel – John 6:24-35

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The Gospel of Our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN

The crowd in this Gospel text is fully aware of two very crucial stories that inform and shape the way this Gospel text takes place.

The first is the story of the Manna from heaven in Exodus which we just heard. There was famine. Their was an expressed desire to have died than to be in their current. They are miserable. They are complaining. And God provides for them. God, working through Moses, provide for the Israelites with manna from heaven, as test for them, to see that they take each day enough for that day.

The crowd in our Gospel text likely knew this story. It was probably told throughout generations of people that got us to where we are in this text. And, there were like other times throughout their history when they wondered if manna from heaven would come to them as well.

And, essentially it did. In the story we heard just last week. The Miracle of the Feeding of the 5000. However it happened, and whatever the miracle actually is in this story, the truth is that from the lesson of a boy offering 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, 5000 people were fed.

The worship resource we use in assembling just about all of our order of worship offers an introduction to the day and kind of sets the stage for the week, offering a bit of a summary, without completely spoiling the Gospel text. Last week, addressing the Miracle of the Feeding of the 5,000 this Introduction gives us the following:

“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.”

Remember that line. Where all the hungry are satisfied. That is a definite takeaway from last week’s Gospel. It tells us that with the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, all were satisfied, and there were leftovers.

So, it is with the knowledge of those two stories from the history of their people, both distant past and just yesterday (for them), that they come back to the place where Jesus was hoping to find more bread.

With the knowledge of these two stories, that you could argue both challenged people to think about what they need and ask if they are able to share what they have, that they come back looking for the fella that they’d heard about, that had just fed the multitudes, if he might just have some more.

Well, they find that he has left. He has gone to the other side, so they do what the crowd has been doing for quite some time now and they go to the other side and it is there that they find Jesus. Now, just as Jesus was aware of what he was going to do in the Feeding of the 5,000, Jesus is also aware here of why it is that they’ve actually sought him out in this story today.

Sure, they try to cover it up questioning how and when he got to the other side, but he sees right through them and knows they really just want some more of that bread. Remember that “satisfied” word that we heard last week? The introduction to the day for today, from that same resource, which I’m starting to wonder if whomever puts this resource together wasn’t just having a little fun with it starts out:

“Apparently not satisfied by Jesus’ feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want.

And, Jesus calls them on it. In all of their years of hearing the story of manna from heaven, they fail to realize that it is God who provides for them. But Jesus does not discard them. Rather, he engages in dialogue with them. “It was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the TRUE bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

As is often the case in John’s Gospel, when people come to Him demanding a(nother) sign, Jesus offers himself. As it was in the beginning and is truth now, that which we need comes from heaven. Not from some earthly accomplishment or accolade, but the nourishment we need, the bread of life FOR life, comes from God above.

Last week, asking our young people about miracles and wondering if what we have to offer is enough to make a difference, one three year old gently raised her hand and proclaimed, professed, “Pastor Josh, we have Jesus in our hearts.”

People of God, that is the bread from heaven that continually comes down day after day.

That is the bread from heaven when we find ourselves in the wilderness wondering if we have what it takes to go on. It is bread that sustains us for the journey back to the life that God has called us to live. And, it is bread that never perishes.

But, more than that, it is bread that calls us, urges us, needs us to not store it up for ourselves. Rather, like a child knowing that they’ve got Jesus in their heart we are called to go out and proclaim the Good News of God’s Love for God’s People.

That is the Good Stuff.

That is the sign the world needs.

That is what God in Jesus Christ is calling us to do in, with, and through this story.

Go out and share the bread of eternal life, Jesus Christ and His love.

Thanks be to God. AMEN

Hymn of the Day

“Bread of Life From Heaven”

#474 vs. 1,2

Apostle’s Creed

Prayers

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed (*especially*). Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

Peace Offering

Offertory Prayer

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

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Post Communion Prayer

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

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

Sending Hymn

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

#537

Sending

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!
Okay! We will! Thanks be to God.
And all of Good Shepherd said,
“AMEN”

2024 Financial Snapshot

Month of July

Year-to-Date

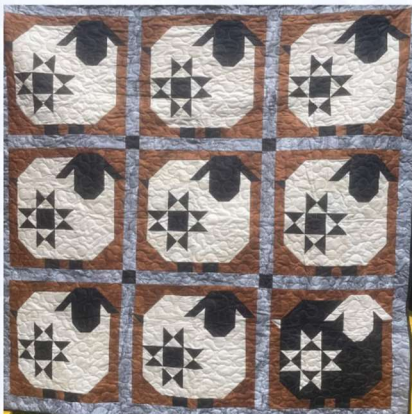
Total Revenue **\$26,032** **\$183,202**

Total Expenses **\$24,377** **\$177,188**

Difference **\$1,655** **\$6,014**

Available in the Checkbook: \$16,031

Generosity Challenge



Gifts Received:

Luther Park
Quilt Auction
Sheep Quilt:

\$675

Emmanuel Lutheran
Longwood, WI
Fire Relief:

\$425



It's Not About Us

Fall
Clothing
Shoes/Socks
Underwear
Backpacks
School supplies
Diapers/Wipes
Toiletries
Misc. Items

Kids Clothing Give-away



**SIZES
INFANT TO
14/16**

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7

10 A.M.-5 P.M.

1120 Cedar St., Eau Claire

**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Shepherd's Closet**

Shepherd's Closet



Lutheran Church of the
GOOD SHEPHERD
KNOWN • SEEN • LOVED

Welcome Back Sunday and Fall Program Kickoff 2024

Sunday, September 8

Come for worship and stick around
for fellowship and activities for all ages!

More details soon!



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GOOD SHEPHERD
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