

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 13

August 2, 2020 – 9:30 a.m.

PRELUDE “God of the Sparrow” -arr. J. Wayne Kerr

Prelude on St. Anne -A. Fedak

Adagio from Partita on St. Anne -set. Paul Manz

HYMN FOR MEDITATION “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” *LSB* 733

1 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home:

2 Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

3 Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

4 A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream
Dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last
And our eternal home! Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 55:1–5*

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 9:1–13*

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return and Sarah shall have a son.” And not only so, but also when Rebecca had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 14:13–21*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw

a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

SERMON “What Would You Do?” Matthew 14:13-21

- I. What Would You Do?
- II. Segment 1: What Will Jesus Do (v.13-14)?
 - What is “this?”
 - What does Jesus want?
 - What ends up happening?
- III. Segment 2: What Will Jesus Do Now (v.15-21)?
 - What do the disciples want? What does Jesus want?
 - How many people were fed?
- IV. Segment 3: What Does Jesus Do for You?
 - What does the cross say about us and our problems?
 - “If my sins give me alarm/and my conscience grieve me/let your cross my fear disarm/peace of conscience give me/Help me see forgiveness won/by Your holy passion/If for me He slays His Son/God must have compassion.”

A few weeks ago, I caught part of ABC’s TV show called, “What Would You Do?” The premise of the show is simple: there are actors playing out scenes of conflict or illegal behavior in a public setting with hidden cameras. The show focuses on what the bystanders do when witnessing such problems or bad behavior. At the end of it all, the host, John Quionones, comes out and tells the people they are on the show, and interviews them. The part of the episode that I saw was a couple that just had their second child about a month ago. The husband and wife are eating in a restaurant, and the wife was telling her husband how she was feeling. She was describing some serious side effects of postpartum depression, symptoms like sadness, feelings of worthlessness, feeling disconnected to the baby and other child, and a lack of pleasure in basic things. The husband tells her to tough it up, then dismisses, and insults her. He then leaves for the bathroom, giving people a chance to react. In one segment, the actor, who is now sobbing, had one lady come over and comfort her. In a different segment, a different woman comforted the actor, too, but went above and beyond. She built her up,

hugged her, and then gave the woman her number saying, “I want to get you help; it sounds like you have postpartum depression. This isn’t your fault, and he doesn’t understand. I’m going to get your number, and we will be in touch tomorrow, and get you the help you need. Don’t worry about the cost or the how.” It was pretty neat to see such great displays of character. Our Gospel text today reads like a segment from “What Would You Do?” In this text, we see a great example of our Lord’s character to the crowd and to us.

Our text starts, “**Now when Jesus heard this....**” What is “this?” Jesus just learned that His cousin, John the Baptist, had been brutally murdered. He was beheaded in prison, and had his head served on a platter at Herod’s dinner party. Hearing “this,” Jesus wants to go with His disciples to a quiet and desolate place. Can you blame him? Not at all. He wants rest for His body and strength for His soul. Jesus probably wants some time to process this and to pray. He probably wants to grieve! But, not so fast.

At this point in His ministry, Jesus’ fame, whether He likes it or not, has spread throughout the land. He is known to be a great teacher and miracle worker. And so, people want to meet Him. Some were probably curious: “What is this guy like?” Others might have wanted to be entertained: “Will He do one of His famous miracles?” A few, yet, had legitimate needs: “Do you think He can help our sick uncle?” But, what happens to famous people? People follow them! They stalk them! They pester them and invade their personal space!

I remember going to the St. Paul Hotel to get autographs of the Blackhawks before they played the Minnesota Wild. When you wait by the bus, players *might* walk over and sign your item. Most don’t. They ignore you, toss their bag below, and then go into the bus. Others will come over, and some others, run, literally. A handful of players toss their bag below and then start booking it on foot to the Xcel Center. When that happens, mobs of people begin to chase after them, hoping for an autograph, as the player runs to the arena. That’s sort of what happens here.

The crowds find out that Jesus is going to a desolate place. The Sea of Galilee is not a big lake; only about 8 miles wide at its greatest point of width, so He was easy to spot with His disciples. They hurry on foot to the other side to meet Him, and Jesus is greeted by a huge crowd as He steps out of the boat. What does Jesus do? At this point, the cameras are rolling, so to say.

What He will do? There is nothing worse than wanting to have a few moments to yourself that suddenly get interrupted, and will be interrupted, for the foreseeable future. It is never fun to get called back into work after trying to decompress or relax. It is unsettling. Jesus just wants some time to Himself after hearing His cousin has been beheaded! It would certainly be understandable if He said, “Please go home; I need a bit of time for myself. John has been killed, and I want to be with my disciples. Come tomorrow, and I’m all yours! Let me have some time to recharge.” The camera zooms in on Jesus as He sees the crowd. What will He do? What will He do as people mob Him on the shore, invade His personal space, and demand His time when He wants to be alone?

This. Jesus doesn’t turn them away, but welcomes them with open arms. He isn’t annoyed or resentful. He isn’t mad or pouty. He isn’t passive aggressive, or sends them off. Instead, Jesus has compassion on them. He puts His own plans and needs on the back burner. He puts the crowd’s need in front of His own. Really, what character! Really, what a man! He shows compassion. He heals their sick and hurting. He listens to their problems, their needs, and their concerns. He listens to their hurt and pain, and He responds. This goes on for a while.

Evening now comes, and a second segment of the show will begin. What will happen next? The disciples come to Jesus and say, “**This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.**” In other words, “We don’t have anything to eat or feed them with. Let them worry about food, and let’s go home. It is their problem to worry about; not ours.” But what will Jesus do? The camera again focuses in.

Jesus says, “**They need not go away; you give them something to eat.**” Jesus can’t be serious, right? He must be joking. Maybe? Feed over 5,000 people, and do it right now? You cannot do that in a modern setting, let alone an ancient one. The disciples, either in reckless obedience, or confident faith, show Him their meager food supply. They have five loaves and two fish. That isn’t really enough for 13 grown men, let alone 5,000 people. But, Jesus shows His character. He shows compassion. He cares about their hunger and their plight.

Jesus tells the disciples, “**Bring them here**”. And taking charge of the crowd and the situation, He has the people sit down on the grass. It is sort of like an impromptu, open air banquet. Jesus then says a prayer,

breaks the loaves, and gives it to the disciples to give to the crowd. And they do, and it *doesn't run out*. Matthew records that “all ate” and “were satisfied.” No one was left out. Everyone had more than enough. Over 5,000 men were fed, not counting the women and children! This text should probably be called “The Feeding of the 5,000 plus!” Probably upwards of 10,000 to 15,000 people were fed! They were even 12 baskets full of leftovers; they ended up with more than what they started with!

Jesus was a generous host, and He showed the people a great compassion. These people mattered to Him. He cared about them and their problems. He cared about their hunger, and He showed them compassion. He cared about their small needs. This is what the Feeding of the 5,000 shows. This shows us the type of God we have: a compassionate One! What would Jesus do to those in need? Show them compassion.

What does Jesus do to you in your need? The same. He shows you compassion! You matter so much to Jesus that He would rather die, than lose you. That is the compassion He has and shows. You matter so much to Jesus that no suffering was too great, no pain too much, no deprivation too burdensome, no punishment too severe for Him to endure to have you as His own. He put your need before His. The cross of the crucified and risen Christ trumpets forth the truth that you matter, and that God cares for you. It proclaims that God has compassion. As one hymn puts it: “If my sins give me alarm/and my conscience grieve me/let your cross my fear disarm/peace of conscience give me/Help me see forgiveness won/by Your holy passion/If for me He slays His Son/God must have compassion.” He does!

Every drop of Christ’s blood contains an ocean of mercy and meaning for you. It declares boldly and loudly that the Creator of the Universe, the One Who knitted us together in our mother’s womb, that One, has singled you out to say, “You I love. You I die for. Its you I have compassion for. I adopt and take you in as my own in my baptism. You matter now and always, because you are everything to me!”

Since God cared about your biggest need, your sin, of course He cares about your smaller needs and issues. He cared about their hunger and sickness, right? Since Jesus died and rose for you, He cares about the grief you feel from a loved one’s death. He cares about the stress you are feeling from the financial uncertainties of COVID-19; “Will I be laid off? Will the economy come back? Will my small business survive?” Jesus cares about the numbness that you feel from depression, the frustration that you have that a spouse’s cancer is back, or the pain you feel from a fractured family. Jesus cares! He does! He really does. He has and shows compassion. The feeding of the 5,000, the cross and the empty tomb, proclaim that!

Jesus will show you His compassion. He listens and He cares. He invites you to come to Him. He will give you strength; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. He will guide and encourage you. He will be your rock and refuge; He will forgive you and shower His grace upon you, which is His undeserved love and kindness (in other words, compassion!). Jesus is the Compassionate Lord. He put your need above His own.

What would Jesus do? Show compassion.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

MUSIC DURING PREPARATION “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” -set. Theodore Beck

For meditation:

1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

2. Order my footsteps by Thy Word
And make my heart sincere;
Let sin have no dominion, Lord,
But keep my conscience clear.

3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
A stricter watch to keep;
And should I e’er forget Thy way,
Restore Thy wand’ring sheep.

4. Make me to walk in Thy commands—
'Tis a delightful road—
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God. Text: Public domain

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

You are invited to receive the Lord's Supper if you believe and confess that Jesus Christ is your Savior from sin, you are a baptized child of the Triune God, and you believe that He gives you His body and blood in the bread and wine you receive. White grape juice can be found in the center of each tray for those who cannot receive alcohol. Children are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Music during distribution: "Thy Holy Wings" -David Cherwien

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing" LSB 924

1. Lord, dismiss us with Your blessing,

Fill our hearts with joy and peace;

Let us each, Your love possessing,

Triumph in redeeming grace.

O refresh us; O refresh us,

Trav'ling through this wilderness.

2. Thanks we give and adoration

For Your Gospel's joyful sound.

May the fruits of Your salvation

In our hearts and lives abound.

Ever faithful, ever faithful

To Your truth may we be found.

3. Savior, when Your love shall call us

From our struggling pilgrim way,

Let not fear of death appall us,

Glad Your summons to obey.

May we ever, may we ever

Reign with You in endless day. Text: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY THOUGHTS: *Matt. 14:17-18 – “They said to him, ‘We have only five loaves here and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’”* When the disciples held on to the five loaves and two fish, that’s exactly what they had. But when they handed them over to the Lord, the multitudes were fed. Apart from Jesus all we do and all we have is nothing. But, in Jesus, all we do and have is blessed to be used by the Lord for His gracious work.

PARKING AT EMMAUS: Please park in the parking lot if possible, or on the Emmaus side of the street. We have received complaints from a neighbor about cars parking too close to his driveway.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM THE FEDERWITZ FAMILY: Dear members of Emmaus, I’m writing to thank you for your support of our ministry over these last several years. We very much appreciate it! Your faithful prayers and financial partnership has been a huge encouragement to us. Thank you! Love in Christ, Carrie

LWR MASK SEWING PROJECT: The Social Ministries and Fellowship Committees are sponsoring a mask sewing project as part of the Lutheran World Relief 75,000 More! Face Mask Challenge which will deliver masks with International Personal Health Kits. Due to COVID-19 we are not able to get together to work on this project, however, we would like to encourage any home sewers to help. We are currently applying for a Thrivent Action Grant to help pay for materials and we will put together kits that will be available in August. Please watch the bulletin for more information. If you are interested in helping you can contact Marilyn P or Marie G.

HEAR “THE LUTHERAN HOUR” on Sunday mornings at 6:05 a.m. on WCCO 830 AM radio. Next week’s broadcast: “Over the Darkness, God Hovers” Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer. A 5-year-old boy once observed, “God has the whole world in His hands-but sometimes He drops it.” Hear how Dr. Dale Meyer responded to that young philosopher in a classic message titled “Over the Darkness, God Hovers.” It’s “Archives August.”