

**WELCOMING WORD** *Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel reading 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. .*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

- L: The Lord upholds all those who fall  
**C: and lifts up those who are bowed down.**
- L: The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,  
**C: and you give them their food in due season.**
- L: You open wide your hand  
**C: and satisfy the desire of every living thing.**
- L: You are righteous in all your ways  
**C: and loving in all your works.**
- L: You are near to all who call upon you,  
**C: to all who call upon you faithfully.**

**OPENING HYMN: #252 You Servants of God**

You servants of God, your master proclaim and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
The name, all victorious, of Jesus extol; His kingdom is glorious and rules over all.  
Our God rules on high, almighty to save; and still he is nigh, his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!  
Salvation to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces and worship the Lamb.  
Then let us adore and give him his right, all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might.  
All honor and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

- L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.  
**C: Amen.**
- L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*
- L: God, our provider  
**C: 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.**
- L: 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.  
**C: Amen.**

## INVOCATION

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

C: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Gracious God,

C: **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 LESSON: 2 Kings 4:42-44** <sup>42</sup>A man came from Ball-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." <sup>43</sup>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.'" <sup>44</sup>He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

**SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 3:14-21** <sup>14</sup>For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, <sup>15</sup>from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. <sup>16</sup>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, <sup>17</sup>and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. <sup>18</sup>I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup>and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

<sup>20</sup>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, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

**GOSPEL: John 6:1-21** <sup>1</sup>Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>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?" <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, <sup>9</sup>"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>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."

<sup>15</sup>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.

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

**MESSAGE** Intern Tamara Siburg

## **SERMON HYMN: #235 *Break Now the Bread of Life***

Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me.  
As once you broke the loaves beside the sea.  
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;  
My spirit waits for you, O living Word.

Bless your own truth, dear Lord, to me, to me.  
As when you blest the bread by Galilee.  
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;  
And I shall find my peace, my all in all.

You are the bread of life, O Lord, to me.  
Your holy Word, the truth that rescues me.  
Give me to eat and live with you above.  
Teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Oh, send your Spirit, Lord, now unto me.  
That he may touch my eyes and make me see.  
Show me the truth concealed within your Word,  
And in your book revealed I see my Lord.

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

**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.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**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. 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.**

**BENEDICTION** *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

**CLOSING HYMN: #752 Here I Am, Lord**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**REFRAIN: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

**REFRAIN**

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide, till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

**REFRAIN**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kyle Fargo, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Mike Mackler (friend of Char Smith), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson), Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Brufat, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

**SPECIAL OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND PICNIC Farewell and Sending Service for Intern Tamara** Please join us after 10am worship for a picnic, with food provided through our Spiritual Growth and Fellowship Ministry. This will be Tamara's last Sunday with us before she returns to Wartburg for her final year. Please come and wish her well!

**ELC 'COFFEE TIME'** Coffee Time meets on Wednesday at 10:00am AND we meet "in person". Join us at ELC for time to gather and catch up with our church family.

**ELC T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE** We have new ELC t-shirts available for purchase. They are a dark green t-shirt with our ELC logo. \$5.00 per shirt, payable to ELC.

**ELC FAITH CONNECTION-** Our ELC Group on Facebook, *ELC Faith Connection*, is for everyone of all ages. This summer, keep your eyes open for 'hearts' you notice in nature. Share your photos on our Facebook group and we will draw names for gift cards to our local community before school begins. #heartsinthewild. Contact Brenda, if you need help connecting.



**EXPLORER DAY AT SUGAR CREEK - July 26th, 9 am - 3 pm** (Children entering 1st - 5th grade in fall 2021) Come for an exciting one-day adventure at Sugar Creek. Explore what camp has to offer - games, nature, crafts, swimming, pony rides, Bible Study, singing and more! \$35 per camper, and \$10 per adult. Please contact Brenda for registration information.

**GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Thriving on Thursdays)** - Middle - High school youth may join us on Thursdays, throughout the summer, to help in various local service opportunities, such as helping at Second Harvest, River Food Pantry, Stewart Park, and a car wash for SABA International. **Our next Thursdays: July 29th and AUG 19th**

**REGISTER online:** (watch times & locations for each day on sign up)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>

**DONATIONS NEEDED** For our youth mission days, "Thriving on Thursdays", we are planning on making some tied fleece blankets for St. Vincent de Paul's housing program, and assembling meals for the Little Food Pantries in Mt Horeb. **Two ways to donate by July 25th:**

- **Blankets** need to be a twin size (60 in x 90 in); measure 2 ½ yds of fleece. Each blanket needs two pieces to be tied.
- **Food donations** Check on our signup link below to see the food items needed to complete two different recipes. If you have trouble connecting, please contact Brenda.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-meal>

**CAR WASH THANK YOU** - Thank you to everyone who helped support our car wash last week. Our youth raised funds for SABA International, as a part of our GIVE/LOVE/SERVE days.

## DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 25, 2021

**SHARE:** What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

**READ:** Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 111, Praise for God's Wonderful Works

Tuesday, Romans 15:22-33, Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

Wednesday, Isaiah 25:6-10a, Praise for Deliverance from Oppression

Thursday, Psalm 78:23-29, God's Goodness and Israel's Ingratitude

Friday, 1 Corinthians 11:27-34, Partaking of the Supper Unworthily

Saturday, Exodus 13:3-10, The Festival of Unleavened Bread

**TALK: Consider some of these ideas:** *"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?..." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets."* John 6:9,13. There were about 5,000 people gathered following Jesus. When Jesus suggested to provide food for them all but some questioned how this would happen but all were able to be fed as much as they wanted with much leftovers remaining.

- Have you ever thought that you didn't have enough to share with others?
- When have you shared something (food, time, games, gifts, etc.) with some else?
- What has prevented you from sharing things with others?
- What do you do you enjoy sharing the most with others?

**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.

**BLESS:** May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.