

**July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal**

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566578300?pwd=WnlrZ01zRXp3b3V0Q1RiTUx5RTlHZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 6657 8300

Passcode: 411838

**You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply):** (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+12042727920,,86566578300#,,,,\*411838# Canada

+14388097799,,86566578300#,,,,\*411838# Canada

**Dial by your location**

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

Meeting ID: 865 6657 8300

Passcode: 411838

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kbPCYJmux>

**PASTORAL VISITS:** Even though our church is closed, please know that our Interim Pastor Chun Zhang is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to him by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

**MAPLE SYRUP:** You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter's. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic. **1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are \$22.00.** Contact the church office to place your order(s) at 519-653-4721.

**Thanksgiving for Our Presence on This Land:**

Click Here: <https://youtu.be/SqEZLBrAu4c>

**Gathering Hymn:** ELW # 266 'All Earth Is Hopeful' (*Bradley Moggach – piano*)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/BEQsD6X35jY>

(Title: All Earth Is Hopeful - ENGLISH, Toda la tierra – SPANISH; Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 All rights reserved. Tune: Spanish text © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Liturgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved)

**Greeting:**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

**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**

**The First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44**

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. (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.\***

**Psalm: 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.\*

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**The Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21**

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. (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.\***

**The Holy Gospel according to Mark John 6:1-21**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

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. (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.\***

**Sermon: (Imaging Interim Pastor Chun Zhang's voice here)**

An old story tells of two shoe salesmen who were sent by their companies to a region in Africa where everyone went barefoot. One salesman sadly informed his company, "I will be back soon. We might as well forget these people, for no one here needs shoes." The other salesman called his company with great excitement, "Send as many shoes as you can as quickly as you can. Everyone here needs shoes!"

Those two salesmen were facing the same problem, but their attitudes towards this problem made a huge difference in their solutions.

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus and his disciples were faced with a big problem too. They were surrounded by thousands of people with a common problem: they were all hungry. Philip saw the problem and despaired. When Jesus asked them to find bread for people to eat, Philip complained: "It would take almost a year's wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!" He saw that the solution to the problem required a big amount of money, and he neither had this money nor wanted to find it, so he pretty much gave up from the very beginning.

Andrew, on the other hand, knew the problem as well as Philip, but he reacted differently. Finding a boy who had five barley loaves and a couple of fish with him, Andrew brought the boy to Jesus as part of the solution. Andrew knew the boy didn't have enough to feed everyone, but he was brave enough, and you can even argue that he was foolish enough to believe that these five loaves of bread and two small fish could be a step in the direction of a solution to the problem. He didn't know how right he was but he did it anyway. Jesus miraculously multiplied both the bread and the fish, and Andrew's and the boy's small contribution ended up being not just the first step toward a solution, but the entire basis for the ultimate solution: feeding everyone there.

What do we learn from this story? People with positive attitudes might not succeed in finding a workable solution to every problem, but they'll find more solutions than people who give up when the problem looks overwhelming.

In the last several years there has been much talk in our Lutheran churches about structural renewal in all expressions of the church: congregationally, synodically, and nationally. There has been talking of ministry strategies. There has been talking of new ministry configurations. There has been talking of community engagement. There has been talking of congregation redevelopment.

In essence, there are conversations about the use of resources: resources of money, people, time, and talent. Some of these conversations have been fruitful and others, frankly, discouraging. Sadly, we've been faced with the stark truth that often when it comes down to making challenging decisions about ministry development, we are usually not brave enough to take the risk.

This Gospel lesson is an encouragement for us to put aside the negative shortsighted attitude of Philip, and take up the seemingly foolish but faithful position of Andrew. If five barley loaves and two fish can feed five thousand people, imagine what Christ can accomplish with what you and I have to bring to the table! Indeed, with Christ, all things are possible. Amen.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 564 'God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven' (Bradley Moggach – piano)**

Click here: <https://youtu.be/BYwWAswMKV4>

*(Title: God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven; Text: Public Domain; Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, st. 1, alt.; William Mercer, 1811-1873, sts. 2, 4, alt.; Richard Whately, 1787-1863, st. 3, alt. All rights reserved. Tune: Public Domain; Music – Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1872 – 1956 © Oxford University Press (New York) All rights reserved.*

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**Prayers of Intercession:**

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. 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.***

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 Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don and Lynn. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

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. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy. Our minds and our hearts can barely fathom the numbers of Indigenous children lost to the Residential School System in Canada. Their families and their communities were forever changed by cruelty done in your name. We grieve the loss of generations of Indigenous children. Lord you know that the depth of pain we feel is small compared to the pain felt by the families of these children. Give us strength and courage to stand with our Indigenous siblings as they seek

answers and demand justice. Help us to more fully demonstrate that you are a God of love and compassion who also grieves the loss of these little ones. Lord, the names of these precious souls may never be known to us, but they have always been known to you. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

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

*Amen*

### **Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

**Meal:** Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/-RnRfJoYmjs>

### **Prayer after Communion**

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:** ELW # 543 'Go, My Children, with My Blessing' (*Bradley Moggach – piano*)

**Click here:** <https://youtu.be/paeLiwar3Hg>

*(Title: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (AR HYDY NOS); Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt., Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House All rights reserved. Tune: Music - Welsh Traditional, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872 - 1958, arr. © Oxford University Press (New York) All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

### **Dismissal:**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**