

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 25, 2021

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska, 402-662-3125

Rev. Dennis Rock, Supply Pastor

PRELUDE: "As the Deer", "Are You Washed in the Blood of the Lamb"

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Psalm 145:10-18)

P: My God and my king...I will bless your name forever.

C: The day will come when all people will praise you and give you thanks.

P: They will speak of the glory of your royal power and tell of your might.

C: Everyone will know of your mighty deeds and the glorious majesty of your kingdom.

P: Your rule is eternal, and you are king forever.

C: The Lord is faithful to his promises. The Lord is merciful in all his acts.

P: The Lord helps those who are in trouble. The Lord lifts those who have fallen.

C: All living things look hopefully to him, and he gives them food when they need it.

P: God gives them enough and satisfies the needs of all.

C: The Lord is righteous in all he does, merciful in all his acts.

P: God is near to those who call to him...

C: Who call to him with sincerity.

P: He supplies the needs of those who honor him...he hears their cries and saves them.

C: I will always praise the Lord; let all his creatures praise his holy name forever.

GATHERING HYMN: "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place"

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel His mighty power and His grace. I can hear the brush of angel's wings, I see glory on each face. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

"Surely the Presence", words and music by Lanny Wolfe. ©1977 Lanny Wolfe Music. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: The lessons for today center on the power of God available to us to support...and even change our lives.

C: The lesson from II Kings tells of Elisha feeding a hundred men with 20 loaves of barley and some fresh ears of grain. There was food left over.

P: In the lesson from Ephesians there is the clear claim that it is the inner person that really counts in life.

C: In the Gospel lesson we have the feeding of the thousands with limited resources...and Jesus walking on water to calm the panic of the disciples.

P: We confess that we are often the ones who doubt the power of the Spirit to sustain us.

C: We confess that we are often the ones in the boat...in the midst of winds and waves...who feel panic and fear.

P: We confess that we are often the ones who are cautious in our faith.

C: We confess that we tend to rationalize the miracles of Scripture...feeling that was a different time and a different way of 'explaining' God. We confess that there are mysteries to life we do not understand.

P: At the same time we believe in miracles. We believe in the mysteries of God that are way beyond our understanding. In the midst of our doubts we believe.

C: We ask for forgiveness for any hesitancy in our faith...for any doubts in our trust.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

C: We thank you O Lord for calling us to grow in our faith. Thank you for walking on water and for feeding the thousands. In the midst of our hungers for inner peace come to us and feed us with the bread of life. In the midst of our feelings of worry, despair and helplessness come to us and still our inner turmoil. We pray this in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²A 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." ⁴³But 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.'" ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I 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, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you 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

¹Jesus 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.

MESSAGE

Pastor Dennis Rock

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"Where Is Bread?"**

(Tune: "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

- 1. "Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured — thousands strong, yet all in need. "Where is bread?" your people wondered, faced with such a crowd to feed. Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it? One small boy brought food to share. Taking what he gave, you blessed it; all were fed, with much to spare.**
- 2. Where is bread? We know their yearning; every day, we wish for more. God, in time, we're slowly learning: all we own can make us poor. Our possessions can possess us, leaving hunger deep inside. Christ our Bread, come now and bless us; at your feast, we're satisfied.**
- 3. "Where is bread?" the call is rising; millions cry who must be fed. God, you gave your answer to us: "You, my Church, you give them bread." Bread to fill each hungry spirit, bread for soul and body, too! Give us bread and help us share it, richly blest, may we serve you.**

Text: Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. Copyright © 2009 Discipleship Resources. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

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 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

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. 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.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong." Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." And now let the weak say, "I am strong." Let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Repeat

(Ending) Give thanks.

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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Do Lord"

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WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

OUR THANKS to Pastor Rock for being our supply pastor this morning.

OUR TRANSITIONAL MINISTER, Pastor Jonathan Jensen, will begin on August 1, and will be leading worship next Sunday, August 1. Beginning Aug. 1, if you are in need of pastoral care, please call Pastor Jensen at 402-768-3665.

IF IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE THROUGH JULY 31: Please call one of our council people – their phone numbers are listed at the end of this bulletin under "Worship Helpers". They will be able to get in touch with the area pastor who is covering us at this time.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Henry Lenner, Ann Lenner, Jody Illies, our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Rexton Busing (July 27), Andrew Peterson (July 29), Tanner Bowhay (July 30), Kristen Remmenga (July 31),

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Jim & Carol Frerichs (7-30-66).

JIM AND CAROL FRERICHS will be married 55 years July 30, 2021. The flowers today, given by their family, are in observance of this special day.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK our family and friends for the cards and gifts we received for our 60th anniversary. God bless you all. – Ron & Betty Leners

BELOVED REGISTRATIONS are on the table in the narthex or can be found on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Please get your registration in as early as possible so we know how many teachers, etc. we need to find. Thank you!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS will take place on Sunday, August 8, as we celebrate and bless the beginning of another school year. Students, preschool through adult, bring your backpacks, bookbags, or lunch boxes to worship. The service will lift up children and students of all ages, dedicating them to God's glory as we begin a new school year. Teachers, aides, secretaries, cooks, librarians, janitors, bus drivers, etc., come to church to be blessed, affirmed in your vocation, and encouraged as you serve children and families in your daily work! Invite your family and friends!

JULY THRIVENT: Who doesn't like SALES? This month we are looking for gently used shoes, socks and coats for kids and adults. Stop at the garage sales and see if you can find a bargain... or look in your closets... or ask your kids or grandkids if they have something that doesn't fit anymore (or they just don't like). Let's see how much we can collect to help others. Thrivent card for this project is by Betty Norton.

PLEASE HELP FILL OUR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF SCHOOL KITS!

School sales are on so please add the needed items to your shopping lists and bring them to church. Why school supplies? To the children who receive School Kits, these supplies sometimes mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only afford to send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority...yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development. Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. Many of these school kits go to war torn countries where the children are affected through no fault of their own. The bags are sent with no symbols for their own safety. All items should be new and in good condition.

Items needed are:

- 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- pencil sharpener
- black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 2½" eraser

Please help fill our bags and be a part of this ministry. Thank you!!!

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR FELLOWSHIP HOUR: Please sign the sheet on the table in the narthex if you would be willing to host Fellowship Hour. Thank you for your help!

HELP NEEDED: We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Also, blankets for hemming. Thank you for your ministry!

SUNMART RECEIPTS: Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called "Support Our Schools and Churches." All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our goal of \$150,000 two times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about \$9,000.00. You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don't want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY: American Lutheran Church gathers food donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. The Food Pantry serves all of Gage County. If you would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall at any time. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU** for your continued support to this ministry!

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at smahleris@gmail.com.

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on Facebook and on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com with your email address.

WORSHIP HELPERS:

Council – Dave Norton-President (402-520-3555), Virgil Jobman-Vice President (402-310-6339), Carol Frerichs-Secretary (402-223-7919), Brenda Hippen-Treasurer (402-688-4466), Linda Searcey-at large (402-223-8237).

Reader – Virgil Jobman

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen/Susan Frerichs

Audio/Video – Norm Flesner

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler