



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
August 2, 2020

Welcome! In this week's First Reading, God speaks through the Prophet Isaiah inviting all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. In the Gospel Reading, Jesus feeds the hungry multitude, revealing the abundance of God. As we humbly receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion here in our worship this morning, we are called to remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life in our own midst, we are also sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.



GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude and Bells

Fantasia in C Major by J.S. Bach; Duet on
O Living Bread From Heaven – arr. Rob Jenkins
Soloist, Michael Bade

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

In the Name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Humbling ourselves, yet held in grace, let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

(A brief silence for reflection)

God of Promise:

**We confess that we have not lived as a people you would have us be,
and we have fallen short of your desire for us.
In your mercy, forgive us our failings, the wrongs we have done,
as well as the right and good things we have neglected to do.
Blow your Spirit among us, to open our hearts and hands anew,
that we may live as a people raised to new life, even here, even now. Amen.**

Our God is faithful, and for ✠ Jesus' sake forgives you all your sins.
May his Spirit surround, fill, strengthen, and heal you,
to be living expressions of his grace, and indeed,
to lead you always toward everlasting life. **Amen.**

Choir

We Come to the Hungry Feast

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.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God,
Your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance.
Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit,
and with this food fill all the starving world;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture and preaching; we respond in profession of faith and prayer

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus heard (*that John the Baptizer had been beheaded*), he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.

¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord:

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

***Amazing Grace* by John Coates, Jr.**

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 Intercession

As a people gathered, empowered, and then sent to serve, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people who seek God's purpose and presence:

God of Heaven and Earth, and Lord of all, we pray for your Church, that we, your people, may share the Bread of Life with all who hunger for meaning and purpose in life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who know physical hunger, for those facing famine throughout the world, for those struggling with drought, and for all undernourished children, that you, O God, would work through us to ease their sufferings, and to respond generously to their need. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of sun and rain, we pray for all who work in the fields and who produce food for our kitchen tables, that you will bless, renew, and provide also for them. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, O Lord, for peace, in our neighborhoods and across the globe, that your Holy Spirit move and inspire all of us with new ways to resolve conflicts, and to bring forth a time of justice and cooperation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for all who struggle with illness, as well as those who are mending from surgery. We pray for all who grieve, and for all who face what seem to be impossible situations. We continue to lift our prayers for the well-being of *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Janice Williams, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny Knippa, Bill Rickrim, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Albert and Deleyce Tietze, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Nat Castillo, Bill Witte, Beth Knox, Tom Bartholomew, Lauren Ottmers, Don Vogt, Lee Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson*, and all whom we also now name. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May the prayers we offer, O God, be a means by which you bring forth new life, not only hoped for, but worked for, through our own faithful word and deed. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")

MEAL

*We bring our "first fruit" offerings to the Table of the Lord
where we are strengthened and nourished with the Body and Blood of Christ*

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love for us and for all your creation, you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who took upon himself our own flesh and blood, who showed us your face,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit, O God, upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they become for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.
Send your Spirit also into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in this holy meal.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**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.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: **Grant us peace. Amen.**

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist will be consumed in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.

Communion Prayer

We give our thanks, O God,
for this gift of bread and wine,
for through them your Son Jesus abides among us.
In the giving of himself to us,
multiply among us, the willingness to give of ourselves,
to you and to all your people;
for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord's face shine upon you with mercy and grace,
The Lord look upon you with favor,
And give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Choir

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ goes with you.

Amen. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

***Chorale Postlude Improvisation on
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness- Jenkins***

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This Week at St. John's

Today, August 2 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, August 2 @ 10:00am	Worship
Monday, August 3 @ 6:15pm	Executive Committee
Wednesday, August 5 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer (Online) (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82173990989)

(Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.)

Ministry Opportunities at Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)

Clothing Needs

CAM is accepting gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women. Items needed are casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes. Currently, CAM is not accepting any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear. Contact Sarah Kory at skory@cam-sa.org or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

Help Feed the Hungry

Every other Tuesday, we deliver sandwiches to CAM around 11:00am. If you would like more information about this ministry and how you can lend support, please contact Bea Imken at 210-887-2217.

Blood Drive

Save a life, give blood!! A church-wide blood drive will be held on Sunday, August 30 in Memorial Hall from 8:00 am – 12 noon. If you can help, please contact Bea Imken at 210-878-7874, or email her at beafitt@gmail.com.

*For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org
The Prayer List is updated monthly (or as needed).*



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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