

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER  
PENTECOST**

*A Service of the Word*

*August 2, 2020*



**ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**85 East Brandt Boulevard**

**Landisville, PA 17538**

*United in Christ,  
we are called to love and serve.*

# NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Service of the Word*  
*August 2, 2020*



*P: Pastor   A: Assisting Minister   C: Congregation & Pastor*

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

*Prelude on the tune 'Terra Beata'*

R. Haan

### † THE GATHERING †

*The Holy Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day of the week,  
the day of Christ's resurrection.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Unsparing God, pleading Christ, satisfying Spirit, we confess that we spend a lot of time and energy in the pursuit of what doesn't satisfy us or those around us for very long. We forget your promises and provisions and fall into times of depression and despair especially during this time when our lives have been changed because of a virus we cannot see or contain. We underestimate the extent of your love and the lavishness of your gifts. Forgive such doubt and ingratitude and bring us to the overwhelming victory that is ours; through Jesus Christ who loved all, and still loves all, because we all matter in Christ's eyes. Amen.

*Silence brief reflection.*

P: Friends in Christ: The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The Lord is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made. The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down. So, with open hearts, hear these words of our Lord Jesus Christ, words directed to all God's children, "Your sins are forgiven." Thanks be to God. Amen.

*(Verse)*

Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer  
for all things living, you have made good:  
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,  
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

*(Verse)*

God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,  
that with our neighbor we may be fed.  
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,  
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

*(Verse)*

Father, providing food for your children,  
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share  
one with another, so that, rejoicing  
with us, all others may know your care.

*(Verse)*

Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,  
freely confessing your gracious hand.  
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;  
your love sustaining showers the land.

## **THE GREETING**

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

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Gracious God, you have compassion on all your people. You feed those who are hungry for food and your word. You embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with that same compassion so your name may be known throughout the world, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

† **THE WORD** †

*God speaks to us in Scriptures read and preached.*

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 55:1-5

A: A reading from Isaiah.

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

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING**

Romans 9:1-5

A: A reading from Romans.

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—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 own people, my kindred 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 them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

A: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 14:13-21

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

Now when Jesus heard this, 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. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for

them and cured their sick. 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.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 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. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

## **SERMON**

Pastor Barbara Caruana

P: *In the name of Christ. Amen.*

There were three mice who died and went to heaven. After a couple of days, St. Peter stopped by and asked them how they liked being in heaven. The mice said it was OK, but since they had such short legs, it was hard for them to get around because heaven was so big. So, St. Peter told them he thought he would be able to help them. After a little while, an angel came to the mice and gave each of them a set of roller skates. Right away, the mice put the skates on, and off they went zipping around heaven, really enjoying themselves.

A little later, a certain cat died and went to heaven. After a couple of days, St. Peter stopped by and asked the cat how he liked being in heaven. The cat said, “Oh, boy, do I like being in heaven! I’m having a great time, and I’m really enjoying myself. And most of all, I love those meals on wheels.” (I wish I could see your faces.)

Today’s Gospel story talks about Jesus multiplying the loaves and fish for the 5,000 plus people on the hillside. It would be interesting to imagine the disciples on inline skates zipping down the aisles through the crowds, giving out meals. But the main point isn’t the sight of the disciples serving the crowds; nor is the main point even the fact that Jesus apparently performed a miracle here. The main point is that Jesus shows mercy and has compassion on the crowd. And he wants us to act the same way.

This idea of acting as Jesus acted reminds me of this true story dating back to September 1989.

After months of hard work and years of saving, the day came for Reb and Jackay to open their own restaurant. All that was needed was the final health inspection and the issuing of the of their business permit. That was scheduled for the first thing the next day. Then *Our Place*, as they called their restaurant, would be in business.

But that morning the winds and rains of Hurricane Hugo hit, unexpectedly making its way 200 miles inland to their North Carolina town. Trees were uprooted, power lines were down, homes and stores were destroyed. Reb and Jackay hurried to their restaurant. Everything was intact.

A deputy sheriff pulled up and told them that their restaurant, the fire station next door, and a service station down the road were the only ones with electricity. Reb and Jackay called the health inspector to come immediately so they could open, but because of the power outage, he couldn't get into his office to issue the permit. No permit, no business opening. With a refrigerator stocked with 300 pounds of bacon and beef and bushels of tomatoes, lettuce and bread, there was only one thing to do: give the food away.

They told the deputy, "Tell your coworkers and other emergency people you see that we'll have free BLT's and coffee for anybody who wants to drop by." Soon firemen, policemen, linemen, and other workers were filing into *Our Place*. When the couple heard that another restaurant was scalping people by charging \$10 for two eggs, toast, and bacon, they placed a sign in their window: FREE BLT'S – FREE COFFEE. Families, travelers, and street people were welcomed.

Then something began to happen. People started to clean counters and sweep floors. Volunteers took over the dish washing from Jackay and helped Reb at the grill. Hearing about what was going on at *Our Place* from the local radio station, people from a neighboring town that had not been too badly hit by the storm brought food from their freezers. Stores and dairies sent over chicken, milk, and all sorts of food items.

It was a long day, but those first cups of coffee and BLT's somehow stretched to 16,000 meals. The restaurant's small stock increased by 500 loaves of bread, cases of mayonnaise, 350 pots of coffee, and bushels of produce.

The disciples' reaction to the crowd was anxiety. Henry Ward Beecher said, "Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the hand of anxiety or the handle of faith." Jesus approached the hillside problem with the handle of faith. Once Jesus started to act confidently, telling the disciples to start handing out the five loaves and two fish, the disciples, and it seems everyone else, caught the spirit and started to pitch in and help one another.

Jesus had just learned about the death of his friend John the Baptist. He wanted to go to a quiet place to mourn, but the crowds followed him, and he felt compelled to feed them. And as he did, Jesus found his grief fading away. It's like what often happens to us. We, too, feel better, whether we're grief-stricken or focusing on ourselves, when we reach out to others.

Let me tell you another story. A man's wife had died. He was inconsolable. He took flowers to her grave every day. He consulted a priest-therapist who counseled him for three months. One day the man brought the flowers he was going to take to his wife's grave to his counseling session, and the priest said, "Today, I don't want you to go your wife's grave. I want you to go to St. John's Hospital down the block and go into each room and give a flower to the patient you find there."

The next week the man went to his session and he was elated. "I had a wonderful time giving those flowers away. Those people appreciated them so much, and I made so many friends. I can't stay today for my session because I'm going back to visit the new friends I met."

You know, it really is true. When we act like Jesus, reaching out with compassion, we do feel better!

Many years ago, there was a woman who lived in a small village in France. She devoted her life to caring for the sick and needy. After many years of kind and selfless service to the village's families, the woman died. She had no family of her own, so the townsfolk planned a beautiful funeral for her ... a fitting tribute to the woman to whom so many owed their lives.

The parish priest, however, reminded them that because she was Protestant, she couldn't be buried in the town's Catholic cemetery. Even though the villager's protested, the canons of the church were very clear; and the priest wouldn't budge. She would have to be buried outside the fence of the cemetery.

The day of the funeral, the whole village accompanied the woman's casket to the cemetery where she was buried – outside the fence. But that night, a group of villagers, armed with shovels, sneaked into the cemetery. They then quietly set to work – moving the fence.

More astounding than Jesus' feeding of the crowds with a few pieces of bread and fish is Jesus' transforming of the crowd into a community united in their need for one another, in the bread they share, and in the love of Christ who has brought them together. Christ empowers each one of us to perform our own miracles of creating community when we "move the fences" to include outsiders, when we welcome the rejected and forgotten to our table, when we joyfully and gratefully give of what little we have for the sake of others, and when we welcome one another as we would welcome Jesus.

St. Paul sums all this up in this way: "My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus the Lord." And because this is true, we're able to reach out to others with the mercy and compassion of Jesus and help supply the needs of others because all lives matter to God.

Zion houses the Hempfield Food Pantry where several of Zion's members give of their time, and the Wired Word Class recently held a food drive. Zion's community meal program also reaches out to others. But what else can we do to reach out to others with the mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ? Think about it ... then let's do it for Christ's sake.

And to that I say, "Let it be so. Amen."

**MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

*Meditation on 'Bread of Life'*

J. Goode

### **APOSTLES' CREED**

**P:** We now proclaim our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

**C:** **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 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 FAITHFUL**

A: Let us pray.

Loving God, you are our Creator and Sustainer. When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. And so, we look to you whenever we're in need, trusting in your love and your goodness.

As you once fed the hungry crowds with five loaves and two small fish, we ask that you again fill those who are empty today. Pour out your Spirit on all who hunger and thirst.

We pray for those who are physically hungry—whose stomachs are empty. We think especially of the people who are facing critical food shortages; who are suffering the effects of malnutrition and starvation; and watching helplessly as loved ones die.

We pray for those who are empty emotionally—who are lonely and long for companionship and love, who are caught in the grip of depression, or overwhelmed with grief.

We pray for those who are spiritually empty—who are troubled, but don't know where to turn; who long for purpose and meaning, but don't know where to look; who need you, but still don't know you.

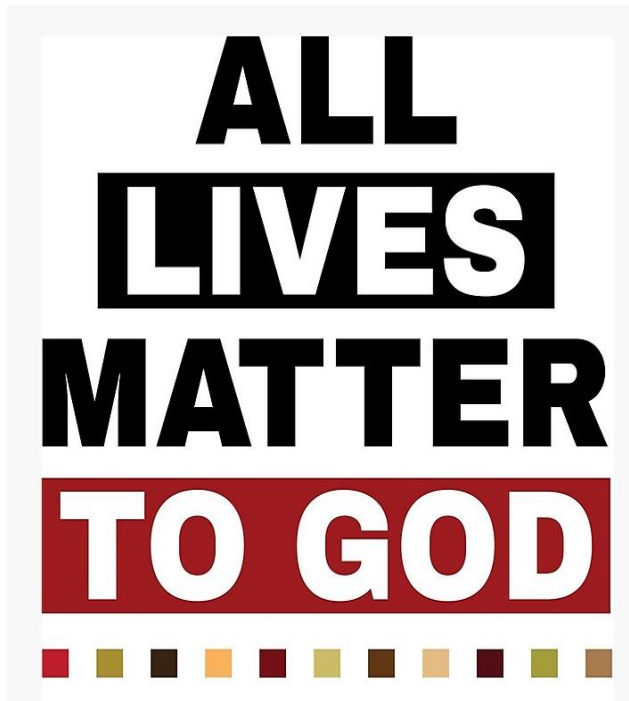
We praise you, O God, for your abundant gifts in our lives. Pour out your Spirit on us, and fill us with your compassion and love, so that we willingly share from our abundance with those who have need.

We pray for those who are ill, those who are recuperating, those who are grieving, and those on Zion's Prayer List. Give strength to those in pain; hold the weak in your arms of compassion and love; give hope and patience to all who are in need.

O God, keep alive in us the memories of those you have called to your heavenly kingdom and grant that every remembrance leads us to you.

And now, O Lord, accept these prayers we offer to you in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who came for all humanity and taught us to pray together saying ...

**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 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.**



**† A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING †**  
*A prayer of thanks to God by his faithful people.*

P: Eternal giver, embracing Spirit, through your love you enable us to see more clearly that all lives matter to you. You enable your children who have been persecuted to survive with forgiving spirits. You give us patience to endure hardship. You grant us courage to face uncertainty and danger. Even death is overcome with resurrection. For such invaluable and imperishable gifts, we are eternally grateful. Thanks be to you, O God, for your giving without limits. Thanks be to you, O Christ, for your death, resurrection, and advocacy. Thanks be to you, O God, for your unfailing love. Amen.

† THE SENDING †

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

HYMN

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

ELW 843

*(Verse 1)*

Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,  
turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel,  
healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands  
with the very bread of peace.

*(Verse 2)*

Praise the One who blessed the children  
with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons  
with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water  
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

*(Verse 3)*

Praise the one true love incarnate:  
Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many  
that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness,  
seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory;  
praise the One who makes us one.

## **BLESSING**

P: As you face the week ahead, with whatever joys and challenges it holds, do not be discouraged or disheartened. Remember the glory that awaits you as a child of God. Hold on to that truth; live and love in that hope; and may the peace of God, the blessing of Jesus Christ, and the presence of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever. Amen.

## **DISMISSAL**

P: United in Christ, remember to go forth to love and serve.

## **POSTLUDE**

*Holy Manna*

D. Hustad

## PRAYER LIST

### ***FOR HEALING***

Adele King  
Kate Donnan  
Barbara Williams  
Dave Wise  
Kevin Reinhart  
Joe Adams  
Judie Ingersoll  
Lucy Davis  
Bill Grove  
Kay Crawford  
Holly Hoover  
Betty Stoner  
Don Heartter  
Janet & Harry Musselman  
Bob Steinmetz (Brother of Diane Gerlach)  
Homer Dietz (Brother-in-law of Harry Musselman)  
Ron Sahd (Friend of Dave Wise)  
Wilson Pipkin (Father of Wilson Pipkin)  
Loma Slike (Mother of Sue Wise)  
Mike LaFatta (Son-in-law of Bill & Julia Grove)

### ***FOR COMFORT, PEACE, STRENGTH, & SAFETY***

For the family and friends grieving the death of Fred Hamor who died on Wednesday, July 29.

For the family and friends grieving the death of Betty Benner (Sister of Sam King)

For the family and friends grieving the death of Ginny Eisenhower (Sister of Dolly Overly)

Richard and Marilyn Heim

Arlene Miller

Deb McCartney

Marlin Zimmerman

Charlotte & George Potts

Bette Geibel

Jennifer Thompson

Ted Symonds & Family

Residents and Staff of the Phoenixville Care & Rehabilitation Center

Arlene Wise (Sister-in-law of Dave Wise)

Vaun Hile (Father of Lynda Sherwood)

Jennifer Kready (Daughter of Dave & Donna Dumeyer)

***FOR PROTECTION FOR MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS***

Christopher Wright

Chris Andrew

Thom Whitesel

Ryan Stitzel

Doug Kautter

Justin Gorlaski

Corey Landis (Nephew of Jesse & Pat Landis)

David Adams (Son-in-law of John & Kathleen Hay, and husband of Liz)



*Never underestimate the power of prayer.*