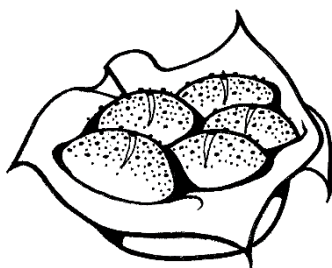


In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.



WELCOME TO GUESTS AND VISITORS! We are glad you could join us for worship today. We hope that you are blessed by the Word and Sacraments that we share. We encourage you to participate as fully as you can. The screen in front will guide you. If desired, musical notation can be found as noted in the outline below. The “#” indicates hymn numbers in red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal, and “SB” indicate page numbers in the “Song Book” pamphlet. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when we stand as we are able.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

“It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord’s Supper and are distributed and received there” (Augsburg Confession, Article X). “A person who has faith in these words, ‘given for you’ and ‘shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,’ is really worthy and well prepared.” “Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament” (The Small Catechism, Part VI). “This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion” (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50).

***Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Holy Communion, Setting Four**

Accompanist: Ellen Westlund

— **Confession and Forgiveness**

689 **Gathering Song** *Praise and Thanksgiving* 🎵

p. 147 **Greeting**

p. 147 **Kyrie**

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p. 150 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.

p. 151 First ReadingIsaiah 55:1-5

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. ²Why 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. ³Incline 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. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, 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.

— PsalmodyPsalm 145:8-9, 15-22

⁸The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹**The Lord is loving to everyone
and his compassion is over all his works.**

¹⁵The Lord upholds all those who fall;
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁶**The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
and you give them their food in due season.**

¹⁷You open wide your hand
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

¹⁸**The Lord is righteous in all his ways
and loving in all his works.**

¹⁹The Lord is near to those who call upon him,
to all who call upon him faithfully.

²⁰**He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;
he hears their cry and helps them.**

²¹The Lord preserves all those who love him,
but he destroys all the wicked.

²²**My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord;
let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.**

p. 151 Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

Paul writes: ¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For 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. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

— **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia. One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia.

p. 151 Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], 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. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then 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. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

— **Sermon**

515 Hymn of the Day *Break Now the Bread of Life* 🎵

p. 152 Peace

p. 105 *Apostles’ Creed*

p. 152 Prayers of Intercession: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

— **Offering, Offering Prayer, & Psalm (116:12, 17, 13-14, 19)**

p. 152 Great Thanksgiving – Dialogue & Preface

p. 153 Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy* 🎵

— **Thanksgiving at the Table**

p. 154 *Lord’s Prayer*

— **Invitation to Communion**

p. 154 Communion Song *Lamb of God* 🎵

— **Communion Distribution**

— **Post-Communion Canticle (Lk. 2:29-32)**

p. 155 Prayer after Communion

p. 155 Blessing

— **Ministry Opportunities & Announcements**

729 Sending Song *The Church of Christ, in Every Age* 🎵

Unreasonable Love

Imagine throwing an impromptu dinner party for thousands of people. Looking out at the huge crowd, would you think, “Yeah, we can do this. It’ll be fun!”? Or would you look in your fridge, cupboards, and freezer and become absolutely certain there was not enough to go around?

It is normal and human to look at the supplies available and make a judgment about whether or not something can be accomplished. It’s reasonable, even! But God’s kingdom is not reasonable. God’s kingdom defies all of our human expectations.

It is not reasonable that the last shall be first. It is not reasonable that God would pour forgiveness on us when we hardly know how to confess. It is not reasonable that the disciples could feed thousands of people with just a few loaves and fishes.

Thanks be to God for the unreasonable, unexpected grace we find in the kingdom! May we brim with gratitude that where we see limits, God knows what is possible. When we stare in shock at the Son of God nailed to the cross, we are sure it’s the end of the story, but God knows differently: love and life are unreasonably more abundant than hatred and death.

When we bring whatever “loaves and fishes” we have in our cupboards to God, God blesses them and makes of them enough. At the Lord’s table, we find the mystery of Christ’s abundant presence in the bread and the wine. At the font, we are joined to the immeasurable, eternal covenant of being God’s beloved through the profuse waters of baptism. It’s preposterous, really, how lavishly, how unreasonably God loves the world! Let us rejoice in God’s unreasonable love and mercy, and join the feast.