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**9th Sunday after Pentecost, July 25, 2021 Video**

*Good morning. I’m Pastor Brian, here at Richfield Lutheran Church, in south Minneapolis. With me today are M.B. as assisting minister, Paul on the organ, and Mary as our vocalist.*

*This is the video worship service for July 25th, our gospel is John 6:1-21. This is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus’ table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.*

**I. GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Gathering Song** *Jesus Calls Us; o’er the Tumult* **# 696, vv 1 & 5**

1 Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult

 of our life's wild, restless sea,

 day by day his clear voice sounding,

 saying, "Christian, follow me*"*:

5 Jesus calls us! By your mercy,

 Savior, may we hear your call,

 give our hearts to your obedience,

 serve and love you best of all.

**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**

Let us pray.

**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.**

**II. WORD**

**Gospel: John 6:1-21** *(In John’s gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called “signs,” because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.*)

The holy gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 men 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *“Feed my sheep”* Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day** *Break Now the Bread of Life* **# 515, vv 1-2**

1 Break now the bread of life,

 dear Lord, to me,

 as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.

 Beyond the sacred page

 I seek you, Lord;

 my spirit waits for you,

 O living Word.

2 Bless your own word of truth,

 dear Lord, to me,

 as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.

 Then shall all bondage cease,

all fetters fall;

 and I shall find my peace,

 my All-in-All!

**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. 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.**

*(A brief silence.)*

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.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today through our website, Richfield dash Lutheran dot org. Thank you for your generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*This Sunday, July 25, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:15, and Zoom worship at 10:45.*

*Next Sunday, August 1, our gospel reading is John 6:1-21. Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.*

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *Jesus, Priceless Treasure* **# 775, vv 1-2**

1 Jesus, priceless treasure,

 source of purest pleasure,

 truest friend to me:

 ah, how long I've panted,

 and my heart has fainted,

 thirsting, Lord, for thee!

 Thine I am, O spotless Lamb;

nothing in this world can hide thee,

 naught I ask beside thee.

2 In thine arm I rest me;

 foes who would molest me

 cannot reach me here.

 Though the earth be shaking,

 every heart be quaking,

 Jesus calms my fear.

 Lightnings flash and thunders crash;

 yet, though sin and hell assail me,

 Jesus will not fail me.

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

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