

Augustana

where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together

July 25, 2021

WOV Service of Word & Prayer

Welcome to Augustana – where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together. I would like to acknowledge we gather on Treaty six territory and the homeland of many people of the Metis Nation. You are welcome to worship with us. We aim to share the unconditional love of God with people of all abilities, ages, colours, ethnicities, sexual orientation or gender identities. This is a work in progress and you are welcome to join us on our way.

We begin our time of worship as we began our life of faith: in the name of God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

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.

GATHERING HYMN **Break Now the Bread of Life**, #515, v.1-3

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.

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!

You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

CHILDREN'S TIME

- Greg the pastor
- The unexpected guests ... 15 minutes or ½ an hour away what to feed them!?
- I did figure something out to feed these people ... but at first there was that moment of fear
- The disciples had two moments of fear: not enough food & then when they were wondering what was coming towards them when Jesus walked out to the boat ... BOTH times Jesus reassured them.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Sustainer of the hungry, like a mother
you feed your children until each is
satisfied.

Turn our eyes to you alone, so that, aware of our
own deepest longings, we reach out with Christ to
feed others with the depth of your love. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE SONG

Refrain: Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe
Just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations.
Who can fail to honor you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name? /refrain

For you alone are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and worship before you,
For your just and holy works have been revealed. /refrain

FIRST READING: FIRST READING: **2 Samuel 11:1-15** (NRSV)

¹ In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

²It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

⁶So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. ⁸Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." ¹²Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, ¹³David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

¹⁴In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. ¹⁵In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Reader: **Word of God, Word of life**

Congregation: **Thanks be to God**

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. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Reader: **Word of God, Word of life**

Congregation: Thanks be to God

Please join in singing our Gospel Acclamation

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

Our hearts burn within us while you open to us the Scriptures.

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all glory to you!

Word of life, Jesus Christ, all praise to you!

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to the Gospel of **John 6:1-21**

Glory to you, O Lord

⁶After this Jesus 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. ¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴ When 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."

¹⁵ When 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.

¹⁶ When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospel of our Lord: **Praise to you, O Christ**

MEDITATION

Insufficient funds used to be the message that accompanied a cheque that bounced. Now it is a quiet message on the interact machine. Both are equally distressing and stressful.

The stress of that message: insufficient or inadequate! That message, and the feelings that go with it, can lead to all sorts of things. King David made stupid life choices stemming, I think, from a situation in which he was feeling inadequate: a king not able to be with his army.

There is a long history of inadequacies. The Bible is full of them.

- A whole host of individuals who deemed themselves inadequate: The people who said, "Are you talking to me?" and looked over their shoulder for someone else. And the people who said, "I'm not sure I'm up for that" but tried anyway
 - Moses [... who told God ... not me. I'm not good at that kind of thing]
 - Naomi who told Ruth go home ... I can't help you
 - Gideon ...
 - Mary

- Apostle Paul And so on and so on
- But it's not just individuals. It is whole groups of people
 - The Hebrews wandering in the wilderness for 40 years
 - The Jews forced into exile or when they were occupied by foreign powers

With that history in mind we arrive at a grassy field with a whole bunch of hungry people and no drive through to pick up a hamburger. 5 rough little loaves and a couple of dried fish. This gives a whole new meaning to "inadequacy"

- Philip – recognized the impossibility of the situation
- Andrew (kinship patron saint of Scotland -- saying here is a tiny bit ... we can make do. No wonder he is the patron saint for the Scots)

Pastor Berg and the miracle of the feeding of the 5000

- Literal miracle
- Of life changing miracle – saw the example of the young boy ... heard Jesus' blessing .. and chose to share what they had hidden away.
Which was the greater miracle? magical food or changed hearts – from greedily

guarding what was theirs to sharing ?

Inadequacy often leads to Bad choices

- Like David's current choices
- Wanting to seize Jesus and make him a political figure who feeds them
- Or even their fear in the boat as Jesus walked towards them
- Fear, despair, avarice and greed flowing out of a sense of inadequacy

But a sense of inadequacy can also lead to some good and faithful reactions

- To start with: Dependence on God's provision
- We might even look over our own shoulder and ask "who me?" saying that we are too old, too young, too poor; not smart or talented enough. Or saying, "there's no way that will work," but stills responding "yes" any ways.

What miracle is necessary to take our insufficiency and make it sufficient and even abundant. Which is the greater miracle ... that God will miraculously parachute in the resources or miracle workers that we need or that we, with all our inadequacies, become sufficient and more so ... just like the baskets that were returned overflowing. The greater miracle is that we would move from "Who me" and "Why me" to "Well, why not me?"

Paul summed it up with:

“Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

?musical offering by Evelyn Knoll “Leaning on the Everlasting Arm of God”?

RESPONSE TO THE WORD –

- Prayer of Confession –God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, know and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GOD’S RESPONSE TO US

Hear then God’s response: God who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace we have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. **AMEN.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

[OFFERING – brought forward at in-person service]

PRAYERS

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words, “Hear us, O God” and you can make the prayer your own by responding “Your mercy is great”.

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. Bless the ministry of the clergy and people of the Diocese of Edmonton and Bishop Jane Alexander and the congregations, dean and council of the East Central Area of the Synod of Alberta and the Territories. 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 and wild fire. 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 seek a safe home especially the Iqbal and Alhamad-Wahid families. Console those who grieve, especially the family of Louise Goos, and hear the cries for those who call to you for healing *especially* Alan, Edith, Earl, Audrey, Orville and Carol, Bruce, Gloria, Marcus, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Shelby, Alice, Deanna, Minnie, Lyssa, Karen, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts*(a pause to offer time to name others).*

Encircle them in your care. 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 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.

Pastor Marilyn: Knowing how God loves us as a Mother and Father we pray in the words Jesus taught us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.**

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The blessing of God,
Who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
+ be upon you now and forever. **AMEN**

Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind, and Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

Thanks be to God

SENDING HYMN: **By Your Hand You Feed Your People**, #469, v. 1&3

By your hand you feed your people, food of angels, heaven's bread.
For these gifts we did not labor, by your grace have we been fed:
Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life outpoured,
given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.

Send us now with faith and courage to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
In our living and our dying, we become what we receive:
Christ's own body, blessed and broken, cup o'erflowing, life outpoured,
given as a living token of your world redeemed, restored.

THANK YOU'S

Worship Assistant: Larry Trenouth

Musicians: Deborah Buck, Augustana St. Timothy Choir

Technicians: Gregory Fowlie-Neufeld, Bryan Tastad

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