

" And may you have the
power to understand, as all
God's people should, how
wide, how long, how high,
and how deep his love is. "

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-Ephesians 3:18

First Evangelical Lutheran Church
Beardstown, Illinois
Ministers: All of God's People
Pastor Gary Sproat
Worship Assistant Pam Anderson

9th Sunday After Pentecost
10:30 a.m.

July 25, 2021

Welcome Everyone! We are glad to have you with us today.

Restrooms are found in the fellowship hall to the right as you enter the fellowship/gathering area.

Prayer is an important part of life of our congregation. Each week we attempt to gather your prayer concerns for inclusion in the prayers during worship. If you know of prayer concerns that should be included today, please add them to the Prayer Request Sheet located on the stand in the back of the church.

Communion – All baptized Christians who believe that the body and blood of Christ are present in this meal are invited to commune. The ushers will direct you forward. Extend your hands with your palms up to indicate you wish to receive. You may also come forward with your hands folded palms down to receive a blessing. If you desire grape juice instead of wine, please point to the tray to indicate that you desire grape juice. The wine is red and the grape juice is white.

If you have any needs or any questions, please feel free to ask an usher, or any congregational member. You may also contact the church office at 217-323-1770.

ORDER OF SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

Today 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..

PREPARATION

The Prelude

Jill Roegge

(♠Indicates to stand as you are able.)

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

C: **Amen**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(Silence for reflection.)

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

GATHERING

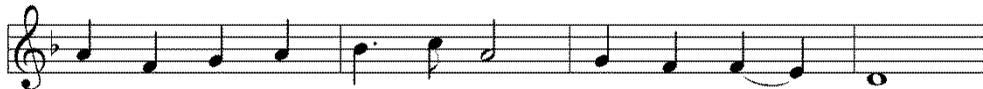
✧ **Opening Hymn – ELW (Red Book) 533 “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”**

✧ **Greeting**

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

C: **And also with you.**

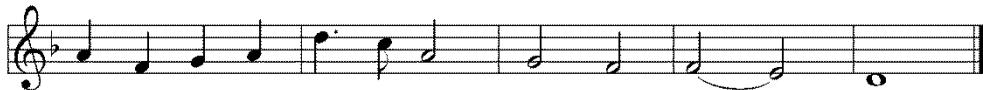
✧ **Kyrie**



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

✧ **Hymn of Praise**



C Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



I Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



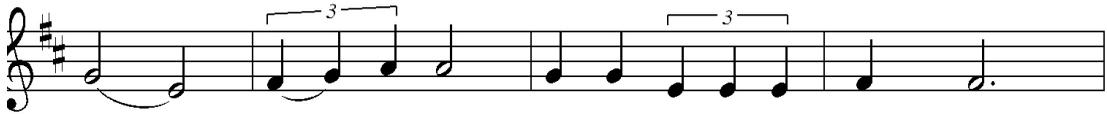
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



G Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



II Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
II



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho-ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther, A - men.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

✧ **Prayer of the Day**

A: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray,

C: **Gracious God, you have placed with 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.**

(Congregation may be seated.)

WORD

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

R: A reading from 2 Kings:

2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat."⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'"⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:10-18



¹⁰All your works shall praise | you, O LORD,
and your faithful | ones shall bless you.

¹¹**They shall tell of the glory | of your kingdom
and speak | of your power,**

¹²that all people may know | of your power
and the glorious splendor | of your kingdom.

¹³**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your dominion endures through- | out all ages.**

**You, LORD, are faithful in all your words,
and loving in | all your works.**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all | those who fall

and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon | you, O LORD,
and you give them their food | in due season.**

¹⁶You open | wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in | all your ways
and loving in | all your works.**

¹⁸You are near to all who | call upon you,
to all who call up- | on you faithfully

Second Reading

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

R: A reading from Ephesians:

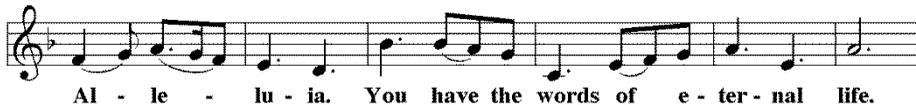
Ephesians 3:14-21

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. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✧ Gospel Acclamation



✧ Announcement of the 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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

C: **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 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Congregation may be seated.)

Sermon

Hymn Of The Day

✧ ELW (Red Book) 515 "Break Now the Bread of Life"

✧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 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 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 Church

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs...

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

MEAL

✧ Sharing of the Peace

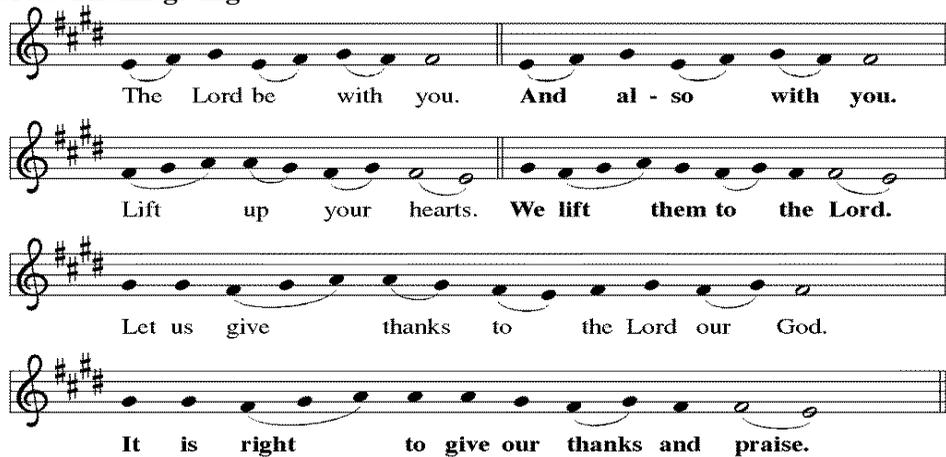
P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you

A: Let us pray,

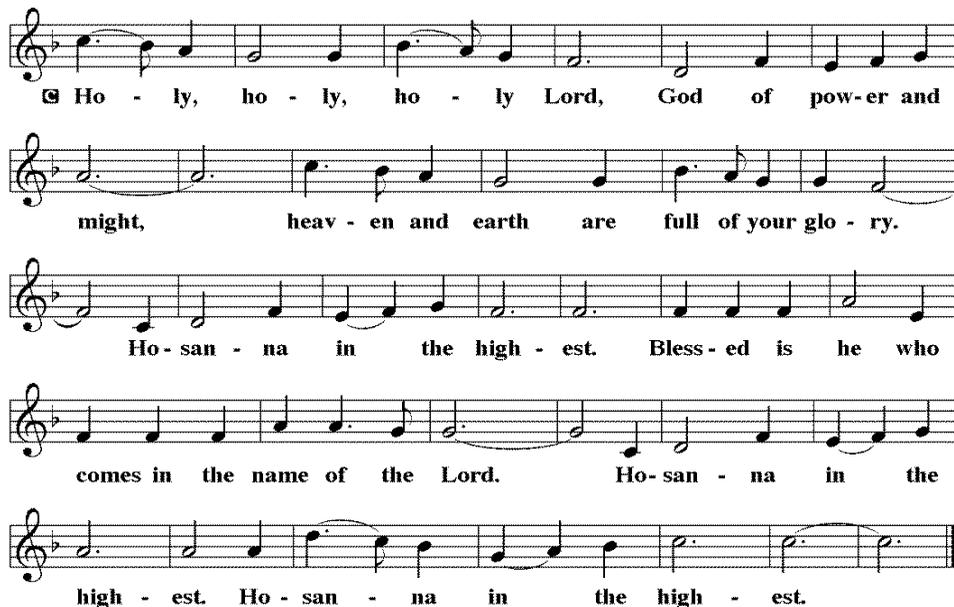
C: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

◇Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

P: It is indeed right our duty and our joy...we praise their name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end

of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In 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 for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



✧ Lord's Prayer

C: 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

(Congregation may be seated.)

Communion

All baptized Christians who believe that the body and blood of Christ are present in this meal are invited to commune. The ushers will direct you forward and you may kneel or stand. Extend your hands with your palms up to indicate you wish to receive. You may also come forward with your hands folded palms down to receive a blessing. If you desire grape juice instead of wine, please point to the tray to indicate that you desire grape juice. The wine is red and the grape juice is white.

Distribution Hymns

☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

ELW (Red Book) 469 “By Your Hand You Lead Your People”

ELW (Red Book) 487 “What Feast of Love”

ELW (Red Book) 439 “Soon and Very Soon”

✧ **Table Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

✧ **Post Communion Canticle**



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who seek the
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

✧ **Post-Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray. (*Response after the prayer*) C: Amen

SENDING

✧ **Benediction** (*Response after the prayer*) C: Amen

✧ **Closing Hymn - ELW (Red Book) 671** “Shine Jesus Shine”

✧ A: Go in peace, serve the Lord, C: **Thanks Be To God!**

Postlude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2X2 CONCERT TODAY AT 12:30 P.M.

There is a free 2x2 Concert today at 12:30 p.m. at the square. There will be a free-will offering with all proceeds going to the Beardstown Ministerial Association's help fund which assists those in need.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL This year VBS will be held at the First United Methodist Church, Beardstown. VBS will be July 26-30 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 5:00 p.m. There will be a pool party on the final day.

First Lutheran needs volunteers to provide cookies for VBS. We also need cardboard tubes (paper towel or toilet paper tubes).

CLIA NEEDS FOR JULY & AUGUST

Christian Love In Action needs for July are canned vegetables of any variety and for August, it is Canned Stew and Canned Chicken and Dumplings.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

We need worship participants for July and August. We especially need ushers, chancel prep, and video recorders. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the back.

THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR

WEEKLY PRAYERS: **Those who are facing long-term illness or for whom we offer our weekly prayer support:** Alaria Bell, Joe Blakeman, Betsy Brown, Alayna Capps, Robert Coats, Robin Days, Ulinda Eilers, Gilbert Ellis, Daryle Fair, Gabby Galvan, Roger Hale, Sue Hale, Tari Hale, Wendell Harbin, Linda Hendricker, Dave Krohe, Leo Leonhard, Dick Piehler, Caitlyn Rous, Ethan Rous, Sherry Ross, Garry Shaw, Marge Shaw, David Thompson, Jennifer Wedeking, Rosemary White

Those whose mobility is limited and whom we remember in prayer as a part of our community of worship: In Nursing Homes: (Heritage South) Rob Cooper, Peg Rink

In the Military: Makenna Brockman, Brian Collison, Levi Collison, Marcus Collison, Marcus Couch, Johnathon Fishel, Chad Hale, Benjamin Raney, Doug Ross, Jakob Stover, Courtney Thompson and Quentin Thompson

If you put someone on the above list and they no longer need our weekly prayers, please let us know so that we may remove their name. Also, please let us know if you would like to have someone added to the list.

Calendar for July 25-August 1

Sun., July 25 - 10:30 a.m. Communion Service

Sun., July 25 – 12:30 p.m. 2x2 Concert

Mon., July 26-Fri., July 30 – 5:00-8:00 p.m. Vacation Bible School at *First United Methodist Church*

Sun., Aug. 1 - 10:30 a.m. Communion Service

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