



## Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Order of Worship for streaming service during COVID-19

August 2, 2020

9:30 am



### about today's service

In today's Gospel reading Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we are reminded of all who are hungry or poor in our world today. When we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

P: Presiding Minister C: Congregation L: Lector

### ✝ Gathering ✝

We gather together to praise God and receive God's love.

Welcome Pastor Liz Frey

Gathering Music "Carillon Celebration" Summer Bells Douglas Wagner

Announcements Pastor Liz Frey

Confession and Forgiveness Pastor Liz Frey

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive 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. Amen.

Hymn: "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" NICA EA

- Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.

Refrain

- Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! Refrain

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(pre-recorded)

Greeting Pastor Liz Frey

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 Pastor Liz Frey

P: Let us pray. 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. Amen.

### ✝ Word ✝

We listen to the story of God's mighty acts for the sake of God's people.

Children's Message Amy Koch, Faith Formation

Song: "Jesus, Lead On" by Brent Helming FaithX band (pre-recorded)

Reading: Romans 9:1-5 Barbara Park

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation Pastor Jack Horner

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter.

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

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21 Pastor Jack Horner

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon: Pastor Jack Horner

Series theme:

*"Uncomfortable: How far are you willing to follow Jesus?"*

Weekly sermon title: *"Giving Ourselves Away"*

Solo: "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" arr. Mark Hayes  
Ron Livingston, soloist

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Liz Frey

Lord's Prayer Pastor Liz Frey

P: Let us pray the prayer our Lord taught us.

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.**

Passing of Peace Pastor Liz Frey

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

### ✝ Sending ✝

*We have heard the Word of God and offered our gifts. Now we are sent out, strengthened by the Holy Spirit to be God's people in the world.*

Blessing Pastor Liz Frey

P: The Lord be near you at all times, the Lord walk beside you so that you will not be troubled, the Lord fill your hearts with gladness, and your mouth with joyful song; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✝ the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you always. Amen.

Dismissal Pastor Liz Frey

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Allegro Vivace" G. Sammartini  
(pre-recorded)

**United and empowered to worship, connect, serve.**

## worship leaders

**Presiding Minister:** The Rev. Elizabeth E. Frey

**Preacher:** The Rev. Dr. Jack M. Horner

**Children's Message:** Amy Koch, Faith Formation

**Music:** H. Timothy Koch, Debbie D Wilson

**Audio Visual:** Jon Lobaugh, Danelle Andrews

**Bulletin Production:** Steve Kauffman

**Bulletin Artwork:** Trinity Staff

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## "Uncomfortable: How far are you willing to follow Jesus?"

### "Giving Ourselves Away"

*The Reverend Dr. Jack M. Horner, Jr.*

**Don't just listen to the Sermon...Ponder how you can live it!**

**Use these questions as a starting point to dive deeper into the sermon each week. Can be used individually, with family and friends, or with your Life-group!**

1. What makes you uncomfortable these days?
2. How does a feeling of weakness and scarcity feed into that?
3. When is the last time you mourned? Did "life" get in the way?
4. How can you be a facilitator of the miracles of Jesus?
5. How can the church do more for those with hunger insecurity?
6. What do you need to give away to minister to others?

Grace and peace be to you from our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Well today we are beginning a sermon series on the uncomfortableness that we can feel as people of faith, and God is providing us with what we need to become more fully devoted followers of Jesus. In the seven-week series we will explore some of the great stories of our faith from the gospel of St. Matthew. I believe it is a timely series. I don't know about you but uncomfortable is how I would describe myself during these times.

I am wondering whether or not there is going to be football this fall. It makes me uncomfortable. Masks and beards – uncomfortable. Preaching a sermon on the feeding of the five thousand knowing that our community cannot gather in person to share holy communion makes me uncomfortable. People being judged by their skin color instead of the content of their character, makes me uncomfortable. Name calling and shaming, makes

me uncomfortable. Dividing us by ethnicity and race and sexual identity, political faction, or what we believe about God, makes me uncomfortable. Protests turning into riots makes me uncomfortable. The unknown makes me uncomfortable.

There is a lot to be uncomfortable about. You can tell that people are on the edge, their cranky, angrier than normal. Politicians of differing political parties can't seem to agree on anything, even things that a normal person would seem that would be easy to agree on. Living during this time of Covid-19 pandemic we plan to do one thing and then there is the latest spike in Covid comes our way. Remember when we thought things would be back to normal by Easter?! The world seems out of whack.

The word comfort comes from two Latin words, "com" and "fortis". Literally meaning to strengthen. Uncomfortable then means feelings of weakness, frailty, exhaustion. Does that sound familiar to you?

Jesus was not comfortable as well in our gospel reading for today. Jesus is pulling away from the crowds to a quiet place because he is mourning the beheading of his cousin and colleague John the Baptist. John was considered a prophet. A prophet in times when Israel had not heard any prophetic voices for hundreds of years. Hundreds of years. And then comes John proclaiming repentance in the wilderness. John spoke with conviction about the need for personal responsibility and repentance for both common person as well as kings and rulers. He issued a call to a new order led by a coming Messiah and Savior for whom he was preparing the way. And in sadness and loss, Jesus wants to get away from it all. But the people follow him to his quiet place with their needs and spiritual hungers. They hunger for the things of God and they see in Jesus an answer to that hunger. Rather than become annoyed at their intrusion, (like his disciples do), Jesus responds with compassion and comfort. He offers healing, love, teaching and serving. The crowd hungers for the things of God and he gives them the things of God. And Jesus does it with nothing, well hardly nothing.

But first some context. Elisha, the successor of the great prophet Elijah during the time of King

Herod, a thousand years before Jesus had fed 100 men with 20 barley loaves during a famine. "Give it to the people and let them eat", he said. But his servants said to him, "How can I set this before hundred people?" It sounds familiar doesn't it? We have nothing here, only five loaves and two fish, we can't afford it, we don't have enough. But Elisha says, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for this is what the Lord says, 'They will eat and have some left over.'"

And now comes Jesus, when some, including his disciples, considered him a prophet. After hours of teach and healing, with the crowd getting restless, the disciples getting cranky. Normally they would address Jesus with the respectful title of "Lord". But not here, in this part of Matthew's gospel. They order him, "Just tell them to go away!" they say to Jesus. They don't believe that Jesus can meet the people's physical needs. The disciples again without any respectful address just tell Jesus the facts, they can't do it, they don't have enough.

A young man comes forward who didn't have much. Two loaves and five fish. Scarcely enough for such a great crowd, but what he did have, he offered to Jesus and thousands of hungry people were fed. Jesus tells the disciples, "You give them something to eat." In the Greek text the word "you" is emphasized. And the people were comforted.

At the time of Jesus many people believed the Messiah would come in the spirit of those prophets of old like Elijah and Elisha. Now Jesus stand among the crowd and tells the disciples to feed the people with what is provided, not what they hoped for, not what they need, but what they have. What their current situation is, the uncomfortable situation that it is.

Writer and professor and popular speaker, Tony Campolo, once spoke recently in Harrisburg for Christian Churches United. He tells the story about being invited to a women's conference as the main speaker. The women were being challenged to raise money for a particular mission project. While Campolo was sitting on the dais, the chairperson turned to him and asked him if he would pray for God's blessing as they considered their individual responses to their goal. Campolo stood up and to the utter amazement of everyone present graciously said to

them “no.” He came to the microphone and said, “You already have the resources necessary to complete the mission project right here in this room. It would be inappropriate to ask for God’s blessing, when in fact God has already blessed you with the abundance and the means to achieve the goal. The necessary gifts are already in your hands. As soon as we take the offering, the mission project, we will thank God for freeing us to be generous, responsible, and accountable stewards of what we were called to be as Christian disciples. And they did.

Jesus is Lord even of our physical needs. Jesus cares about hungry people and does something, and he motivates his disciples, his followers of Jesus to do something. And the church has been involved in alleviating hunger around the world for 2000 years. And if it were not for conflict, violence, and war as well as weather related reasons like draught, or flood, we would have even made more progress. But if there is anything to learn in this story for Christians it is this... We should not patronize Jesus with talk of not having enough, that somehow the Lord of Life is limited in what he can do.

The disciples thought that they were limited with only seven items, two fish and five loaves. Jesus is teaching them and us to count to eight and beyond. To multiply the mission and ministry of Jesus. And, disciples of Jesus are facilitators of the miracles of Jesus. Jesus takes what is there and provides enough for everyone.

Martin Luther in his Small Catechism , his explanation of the Sixth Commandment said “We are to fear and love God, so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support our neighbor in all of life’s needs.”

Are you uncomfortable these days? Then be the comfort, love God, love people, rely on Jesus, be his partner in ministry, give yourself away for the sake of neighbor and world. Miracles will happen. People will be fed. The world will become a better place.

Jesus feeds hungry people in deserted places, uncomfortable places, and the power of this story is that since that time, the church, your church, has lead the way in feeding people, caring for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the widow, the orphaned, the refugee. Caring and loving and

servicing each other. We’ve offered comfort as Jesus taught.

Yes, these are uncomfortable time, but sometimes God wants you to be uncomfortable. It is during such times that it forces you to have the clarity of thought, to reach out to Him, to seek your way in the darkness, to rely on the Lord who is your shepherd who leads you through dark valleys.

If you are uncomfortable, maybe God is stretching your perception, calling you into action, pushing you, pushing you to do more, inviting you to give yourself away for the sake of those who are hungry.

How willing are you to follow Jesus? Amen.

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