1  
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Sunday, August 2, 2020  
9th Sunday after Pentecost  
Introduction to the day  
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.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS  
We extend our sympathies to the family of Melinda Watts who died on Saturday, July 25  
At home. A graveside service was held Wednesday, July 29 at Rest Haven Cemetery.

PRELUDE  
CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS  
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: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
Silence is kept for reflection.  
P: Gracious God,  
C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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.

2  
GATHERING SONG: Praise and Thanksgiving (ELW 689)  
(hum or sing softly with mask on)  
1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood. 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you, that with our neighbor we may be fed. Sowing or tilling, we would work with you, harvesting, milling for daily bread. 3 Father, providing food for your children, by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share one with another, so that, rejoicing with us, all others may know your care. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY  
P: Let us pray.  
C: 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.

The assembly is seated.  
WORD  
God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:  
L: A reading from Isaiah 55:1-5.  
God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

3  
1Ho, 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.  
L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21 read responsively  
8The LORD is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. 9LORD, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works. 14The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down. 15The 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.  
17You 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 upon you faithfully. 19You fulfill the desire of those who fear you; you hear their cry and save them. 20You watch over all those who love you, but all the wicked you shall destroy. 21My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD; let all flesh bless God’s holy name forever and ever.

4  
SECOND READING:  
L: A reading from Romans 9:15  
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.  
L: The word of the Lord.  
C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION  
Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life.  
Alleluia. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21  
P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
C: Glory to you, O Lord.  
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.  
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.  
P: The gospel of the Lord.  
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON  
Silence for meditation

5  
HYMN OF THE DAY The Church of Christ, in Every Age (ELW 729)  
(Hum or sing softly with mask on)  
1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead. 2 Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die. 5 We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord; to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION  
A: Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.  
A brief silence.  
A: You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.  
A: Your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Reverse the damage we have caused your creation. Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.  
A: You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. Bring the prophetic vision to fullness, that all nations will run to you and that nations who do not know you will find their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.  
A: You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, soul, and mind (especially). Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.

6  
A: You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation, St, John Lutheran, such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we encounter. Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.  
Here other intercessions may be offered.  
A: You gather your saints as one, united in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly banquet. We remember with love and thanksgiving the saints we have known (especially). Lord, in your mercy,  
C: hear our prayer.  
P: In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
C: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION  
Please come forward to receive the “body of Christ” by holding out your hands in a cup like fashion as far as you can. The Pastor will drop the wafer into your hand, saying “the body of Christ given for you,” and you respond “Amen,” then go to the left or right and receive the “blood of Christ” from a pre-filled glass. The glasses will be separated so you don’t touch one another. Take the glass and the communion assistant standing in the choir loft will say, “the blood of Christ shed for you.” There will be a separate tray of glasses with grape juice for those who prefer grape juice. Please return to your seat after communing.

P: The Great Thanksgiving and The Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER  
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.  
Dismissal  
Postlude

7  
You are welcomed to join us for weekly prayer/Holy Communion at Trinity Episcopal Church each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. starting August 12.

Announcements  
Remember in prayer: Rowen Aldridge, Luke Antolick, Bob Braucht, Dawn Hauser, Ralph Lehman, Caleb Leone, David Mitchell, Bob and Phyllis Moriarity, Kathy Neal, Rev. Donald and Ruth Nice, Jack Rishel, Joann Rishel, Jane Shaffer, Brenda Traxler, Jillian Waldman, and all of our shut-ins; the safety of our military troops around the world (Mark Baier, Paul Laidacker, Kenny Leitch, Maddison Myers, Tyler O’Neal, Adam Shaffer, Aaron Stabley, Paul St. James, Jenna White); Family Promise and the homeless in our counties. Bishop Eaton, our Presiding Bishop; and Bishop Collins, Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. For our Companion Synod in Liberia and Ansbach-Wurzburg, Germany; our sister church, St. Wunibald in Heidenheim, Germany and for the New Love Center as it seeks to build a new food hub.

The altar flowers this morning are given in loving memory of Mitch Hollick by the Hollick family.

The Lutheran Church Women’s Prayer Chain is a vital ministry of St. John Lutheran.  
Anyone in need of prayers is asked to contact any of the following persons:  
Gloria Ely – 570-873-3597  
Sarah Davidson - 570-398-0659  
Joyce Braucht - 570-398-2852

“Grab-a-Tab” - The youth of St. John would like to ask for donations of little tabs from beverage, soup and dessert cans. It doesn’t matter what color the tab, just grab them and deliver them to the church office. This project will benefit the Ronald McDonald House of Danville. “Grab-a-Tab” program allows people of all ages to join in the effort of providing a “Home-away-from-Home” to children with cancer or other serious illnesses and their families.

Giving Plus+  
St. John Lutheran is offering a new way to support the ministries of St. John. Now you can download the “Giving Plus+” app from your app store for your cell phone. This feature is also available on our web site. Enter your email, make up a password, and walk through the choices to give the church an electronic donation by check or debit/credit card. People were asking if they could give electronically by debit/credit card. Now this feature is available. If you have any questions, contact Scott Mitchell.

We also offer Give+ Text:  
Simply send a text message to 570-865-1101 with the amount you would like to contribute (example: 25). Within a few minutes, you’ll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and credit or debit card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.  
Please leave your offering in the offertory plate located at each exit of the church.  
8  
For those of you who would like to send cards and notes of remembrance to the family of Melinda “Mo” Watts, we have listed the address of her three daughters.  
Holly Kosa  
3570 Wilson Farms Blvd  
Franklin OH 45005

Heather Bass  
8736 Franklin-Trenton Rd  
Carlisle OH 45005

Heidi Mazano  
13 Harrison Street  
Middletown OH 45042