

# THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*(Please tune your radio to FM 89.7)*

*This brief devotional thought based on today's Holy Gospel was written by St. Matthew's own Joshua Teggatz, who was recently received into the Master of Divinity program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. Thanks Josh!*

It's amazingly easy to turn a blind eye to the needs of a neighbor. We may have intentions of helping someone, yet the temptation to do what we want all too often gets the upper hand.

This is how Jesus' disciples were acting *in a story that will be read in our church service this Sunday*. They had looked on while Jesus healed great crowds of people and taught them all day.

Now the sun was setting. It was time for food and rest. The disciples asked Jesus to "send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves" (Matthew 14:15). Yet Jesus did not stop showing compassion to the thronging crowds.

Instead, Jesus presented his followers with a challenge: "You give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:16). This completely blindsided the disciples, whose minds were set on their own bellies and beds.

How were they to feed over five thousand people with "only five loaves . . . and two fish" (Matthew 14:17)?

Jesus used this situation to teach his followers about faith in God. He also revealed His own heart of overflowing love for people. He blessed the small amount of food, broke it, and fed each and every person in attendance.

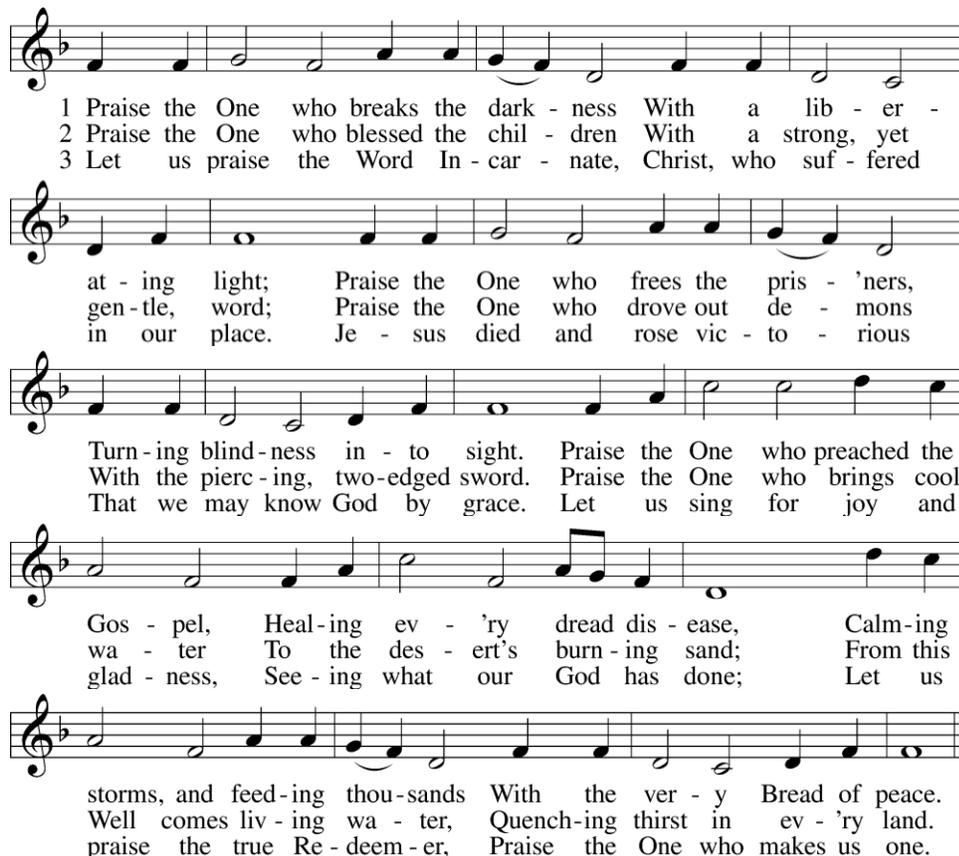
Not only did Jesus satisfy the hunger of all the people there, but there were even "twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over" (Matthew 14:20)! The disciples had been setting their focus on themselves, but Jesus' sole focus remained on showing God's love and compassion to others.

Christians seek to follow Jesus their Lord by serving their neighbors with the gifts that God has given them. For the compassionate heart of the One Who died and rose again is always directed toward others. Today it is directed toward you.

T T T

## HYMN OF INVOCATION: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered

at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious

Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and

Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us

storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

## INVOCATION

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**
- P Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters,  
C **and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

*Silence for self-examination.*

- P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C **Amen.**
- P The Lord remembered us in our low estate,  
C **His steadfast love endures forever;**
- P He rescued us from our foes,  
C **His steadfast love endures forever;**
- P He gives food to all flesh,  
C **His steadfast love endures forever;**
- P give thanks to the God of heaven,  
C **His steadfast love endures forever;**
- P May the God who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.  
C **And also with you.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P Let us pray... Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
C **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Isaiah 55:1-5*

<sup>1</sup>“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come,

buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup>Why do

you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> Behold, I

P This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*Romans 9:1-13*

<sup>1</sup> I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup> To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

<sup>6</sup> But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, <sup>7</sup> and not all are children of Abraham because they are his

P This is the Word of the Lord.  
C **Thanks be to God.**

made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” <sup>8</sup> This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. <sup>9</sup> For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” <sup>10</sup> And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, <sup>11</sup> though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— <sup>12</sup> she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” <sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 14:13-21*

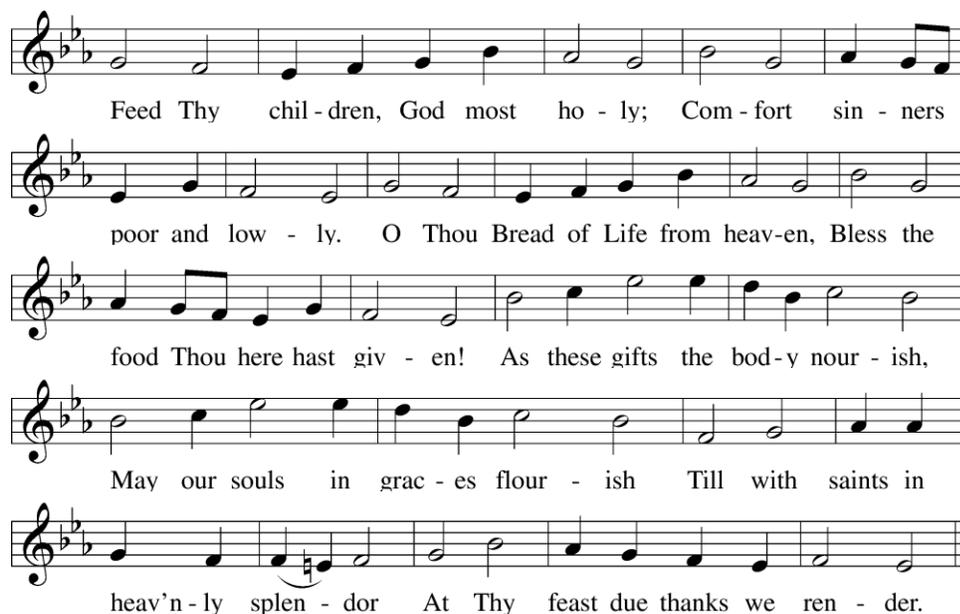
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourteenth chapter.  
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate 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 on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup> They said to

him, “We have only five loaves here 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, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
C **Praise to you, O Christ.**



Feed Thy chil-dren, God most ho-ly; Com-fort sin-ners  
 poor and low-ly. O Thou Bread of Life from heav-en, Bless the  
 food Thou here hast giv-en! As these gifts the bod-y nour-ish,  
 May our souls in grac-es flour-ish Till with saints in  
 heav'n-ly splen-dor At Thy feast due thanks we ren-der.

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## SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

- C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P *God has made us his people and given us his Spirit. So let us pray for all the people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all the people in the world.*

Almighty God, heavenly Father: We thank and praise you for all your good gifts to us – food and clothing, home and family, daily work, and all we need from day to day. Thank you that through these, you are good to us every moment of the day. Help us to see your goodness and give praise to you with a thankful heart. Lead us to share your goodness with others through our daily vocation. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C **hear our prayer.**

- P Grant that your holy church may be the bearers of your new creation throughout the world. Give all pastors grace to preach your re-creative word with power. Move your people to support the work of your church through their offerings and through being involved in the various programs of our congregation. Bless our synodical, district, and circuit officials and all our pastors, lay leaders, and all our baptized children with the gifts necessary to fulfil their callings. Lord, in Your mercy,

- C **hear our prayer.**

- P We thank you for your good gift of peace and stability in our country. Bless our elected leaders with truth, wisdom and justice. Help all leaders in politics and society, culture and industry, to be agents of good and blessing to the community. Lord, in Your mercy,  
 C **hear our prayer.**
- P Help us who have been abundantly blessed to share what we have with those who hunger and thirst. And give us sun and rain in right measure for the growing of healthy harvests that we might enjoy your gracious provision with thankful hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,  
 C **hear our prayer.**
- P Bless and help those among us who are sick, in need, or who suffer in some way. Help them with your Holy Spirit, so they may accept your loving will and rejoice in your saving help. Lord, in Your mercy,  
 C **hear our prayer.**
- P Heavenly Father, you show your loving care for the whole world, and your Son satisfied the needs of the five thousand. In your great goodness answer our prayers; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
 C **Amen.**

### SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

- P The Lord be with you.  
 C **And with your spirit.**
- P Lift up your hearts.  
 C **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
 C **It is good and right so to do.**
- P It is truly our duty and delight to give You thanks and praise, O Lord, mighty God, everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, whose mercy daily and richly supplies us with all good things and whose love has accomplished all things for our redemption. Hear us with the angels and archangels and all those who have loved Your appearing, as we sing with one voice the everlasting song of praise:

### SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo-ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

- P Blessed Lord, Your love created all things and Your mercy gave the promise of redemption when we chose the path of sin and rebellion. Grant us grateful hearts to rejoice in all Your mercies and hearts of faith to trust in the redemption accomplished for us by the death and resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ. In accord with His Word and testament, we receive His body in this bread and His blood in this wine, assuring us of Your forgiveness and bestowing upon us a foretaste of the feast to come.

C **Amen.**

## THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

## PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Lord of power and glory, our restless hearts long for things that do not last. Teach us to hunger and thirst for Your Word and for Your Sacrament that our longing be satisfied by Your abundant grace. Help us by this communion upon Christ's flesh and blood to proclaim His death until He comes again in His glory and brings to completion all that He has promised. As our Savior has taught, we are bold to pray:

## 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.**

## PAX DOMINI

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

## AGNUS DEI

☐ 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.

## THE DISTRIBUTION

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P *Let us pray...* Almighty God, in our want we cry to You and You answer us with the food of Your mercy and grace in Christ, our Savior. Keep us from being satisfied by things that have no power to forgive our sins or lead us to everlasting life. Lead us to trust in You, for Your grace will not disappoint us, and Your gifts satisfy us today and through all eternity; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P Go in peace, filled with the abundant life that God gives you.

C **Thanks be to God!**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## HYMN TO DEPART: "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

LSB 918

1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious  
bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;  
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar  
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,  
Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,  
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,  
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,  
bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no  
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and  
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to  
more; Feed me till I want no more.  
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.  
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

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