

Grace Lutheran Church

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The Simplicity of Miracles

When we think of a miracle, often what comes to mind is an amazing, unexplainable occurrence. Today the word *miracle* typically gets associated with events such as someone walking away from a terrible car accident without a scratch, or a cancerous-looking tumor turning out to be benign. But miracles don't have to be amazing and unexplainable in order to be, well, miraculous.

The feeding of the thousands is one of the most well-known miracles of Jesus, and it must be important, because a version of this account appears in all four gospels. But the miracle in the story is not the amazing act of Jesus creating food for thousands of people. Notice that Jesus doesn't actually feed anyone, but tells the disciples, "You give them something to eat" (Matt. 14:16). After Jesus blesses their meager collection of bread and fish, it is the disciples, not Jesus, who give the food to the hungry people. And the miracle doesn't stop there. What is distributed is a feast bountiful enough to satisfy "about five thousand men, besides women and children" (Matt. 14:21)—with leftovers!

Perhaps the real miracle here is not a large, unexplainable act, but a small, simple one, carried out by many people. Where have you seen God at work in the simple sharing of food? When have you experienced abundance in a situation that seemed to promise only disappointment? Where have you seen or participated in an activity, an event, or a movement that appeared to lack resources or broad support but that resulted in real progress or change? There are miracles all around us. And whether we are distributing, sharing, or receiving the bread Jesus gives, we are blessed.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Our Participation Card has two sides to complete. Please fill it out and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees.

8th Sunday after Pentecost

August 6, 2017

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Song

Here in This Place

WOV 718 (blue book)

Greeting

☐ 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.**

Prayer of the Day

☐ 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.**

Sit

First Reading

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 the people, with promises that previously had been limited to the line of kings. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

☐ A reading from **Isaiah:**

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.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

You o - pen wide your hand and sat - is -
fy the de - sire of ev - 'ry liv - ing thing.

**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 up- | on 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 forev- | er and ever. **

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

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.

A A reading from **Romans**:

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.

G Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya!
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



¡A - le - lu - ya, a - le - lu - ya,
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



a - le - lu - ya! ¡A - le - lu - ya!

Gospel Reading

Matthew 14:13-21

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.

📖 The Holy Gospel, according to **Matthew**.

🔊 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🔊 **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children’s Message

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children’s sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children’s message.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

We Come to the Hungry Feast

ELW 479 (red book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayers

🔊 Generous, compassionate God, we gather before you to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

🔊 God of the covenant, call your church on earth to worship together to glorify your name in every language and in every land. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, especially *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Sarah; our companion churches in Latvia, Honduras and Papua New Guinea; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holland, Middleville Christian Reformed Church; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Paul.* Lord in your mercy,

🔊 **hear our prayer.**

A God of abundance who provides fields of wheat and vineyards of grapes, bless farmers and growers who furnish bread and wine for tables of abundance. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A God of all compassion, raise up just leaders who care for the poor and hungry. Let nations share your bounty across the world and assure that no one goes without food. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, especially *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Tim Krewson and Tyler Van Houten*. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A God of all, fill those who are starving whether they long for food or companionship. Comfort the lonely and grieving; heal those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit. Comfort the sick and their caregivers, especially *Keenan Rudesill, Victoria Steadman, Danny Gillons, Kris Gilbert, Barbara Macaully, Sharon Duits, Corrina Palmer, Jane Secor and Tom Bliler*. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A God who satisfies, bless the feeding programs of this congregation and community. Be with sandwich makers and cookie bakers, with those who stock food pantry shelves and those who point out need whether in our neighborhood or half a world away. *We ask your blessing of discernment and wisdom upon our Call Committee, and bless our congregation with patience while we wait for our next Pastor. Pour out your spirit of courage and faith upon the leader you will call for service to Grace, and let your will be heard clearly by all involved in this process.* Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

A Bless us as we remember the saints at your everlasting feast until we join them at your bountiful table. Lord in your mercy,

G **hear our prayers.**

P Into your hands we place all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, trusting in the mercy of Christ Jesus.

G **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

G **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill out a Participation card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offering Song

God Extends an Invitation

ELW 486 (red book)



Nues-tro Pa - dre nos in - vi - ta a la me - sa de la
God ex - tends an in - vi - ta - tion to the ta - ble of cre -



vi - da, don - de hay vi - no, luz y pan; y no -
a - tion, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we



so - tros nos reu - ni - mos, y lo nues - tro com - par - ti - mos, pues a -
gath - er in thanks - giv - ing and we of - fer all our liv - ing. Here the



sí es la co - mu - ni - ón; pues a - sí es la co - mu - ni - ón.
feast of life is spread; here the feast of life is spread.

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

G You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Great Thanksgiving

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And also 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.**

☞ It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



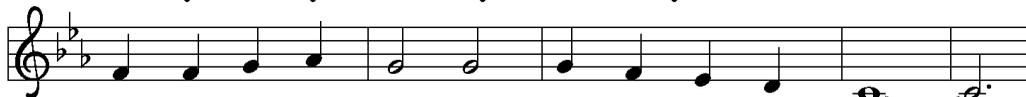
San - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God,



Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



San - to, san - to, san - to, san - to_es el Se - ñor,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God,



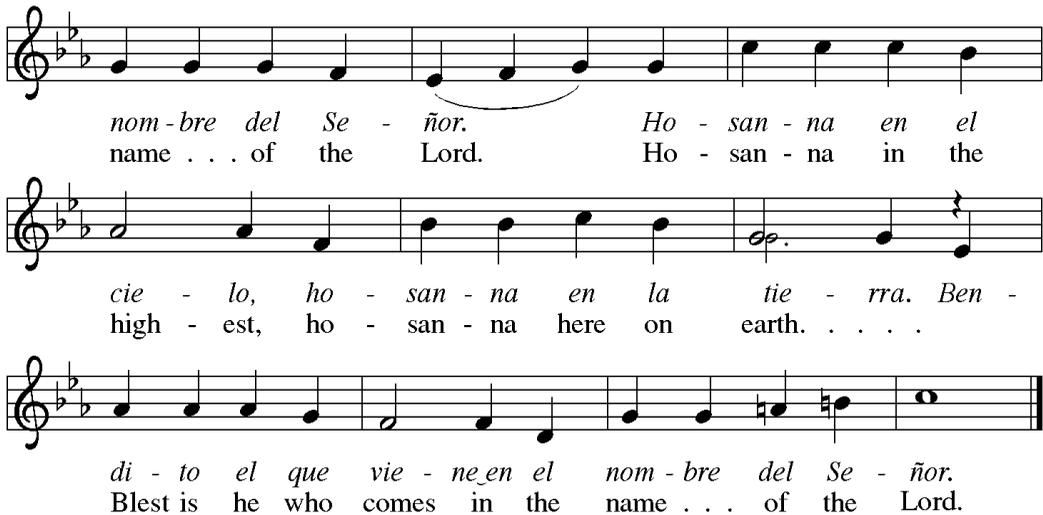
Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se - ñor.
God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord.



Ho - san - na en el cie - lo, ho - san - na en la
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na here on



tie - rra. Ben - di - to el que vie - ne en el
earth. Blest is he who comes in the



nom - bre del Se - ñor. Ho - san - na en el
name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

cie - lo, ho - san - na en la tie - rra. Ben -
high - est, ho - san - na here on earth. . . .

di - to el que vie - ne en el nom - bre del Se - ñor.
Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer

- P** Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation everything was whole and well in your praise.
- C** **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**
- P** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; He 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.

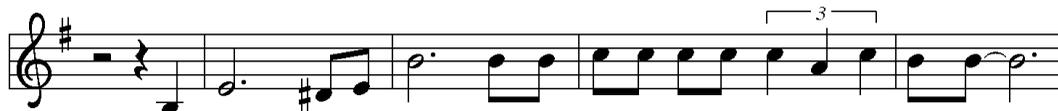
Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death,
- C** **we await that day when all the people of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.**
- P** Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
- C** **let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.**
- P** Through him all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
- C** **both now and forever. Amen.**



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



ten pie-dad de no - so - tros, ten pie-dad de no - so - tros.
have . . mer-cy up - on us, have . . mer-cy up - on us.



Cor-de - ro de Dios, tú que qui-tas el pe-ca-do del mun-do;
O Lamb of . . God, you . . take a-way the sin of the world; . .



da - nos tu paz, da - nos tu paz.
grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

Living Bread from Heaven

Taste and See

Blessed Assurance

ELW 542 (red book)

ELW 493

ELW 638

Stand as you are able.

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

C Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.

Sit

Congregational Announcements

Stand as you are able.

Blessing

☐ May God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing.

Sending Song

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

WOV 721 (red book)

Dismissal

☐ Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 103

Weekly Giving: \$2,096.00

Budget Amount: \$4,226.98

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of sugar, canned pasta (ie, ravioli, spaghetti-o's, etc) , instant mashed potatoes.

Backpack Program – Grace will again be partnering with Barry County United Way to help ensure that children (Pre-K & Young 5's) go back to school with the supplies they need to start the year off. We are currently seeking the following items: pencils, crayons (12-16 color), glue sticks, pencil top erasers, scissors, boxes of tissues, small backpacks, water bottles, plastic ziplocs, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, post-it notes, highlighters, dry erase markers, pencil boxes, cardboard pocket folders. These will be distributed on August 21 & 22. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Mike Kemper.

THANK YOU GRACE for the loving response to the Hastings Food Pantry June Food Drive. 480 pounds of food X \$2.17 (Feeding America formula) equals about \$1,040 plus the \$605 in cash donations. Hastings Food Pantry sends their thanks and invites anyone who wants to volunteer to come check it out at First United Methodist Church in Hastings. Talk to Kim Domke for more details.

Youth Group Presentation – those youth group members who recently attended the Gathering event in Detroit will be making a short presentation today.

When we think of a miracle, often what comes to mind is an amazing, unexplainable occurrence. Today the word *miracle* typically gets associated with events such as someone walking away from a terrible car accident without a scratch, or a cancerous-looking tumor turning out to be benign. But miracles don't have to be amazing and unexplainable in order to be, well, miraculous.

The feeding of the thousands is one of the most well-known miracles of Jesus, and it must be important, because a version of this account appears in all four gospels. But the miracle in the story is not the amazing act of Jesus creating food for thousands of people. Notice that Jesus doesn't actually feed anyone, but tells the disciples, "You give them something to eat" (Matt. 14:16). After Jesus blesses their meager collection of bread and fish, it is the disciples, not Jesus, who give the food to the hungry people. And the miracle doesn't stop there. What is distributed is a feast bountiful enough to satisfy "about five thousand men, besides women and children" (Matt. 14:21)—with leftovers!

Perhaps the real miracle here is not a large, unexplainable act, but a small, simple one, carried out by many people. Where have you seen God at work in the simple sharing of food? When have you experienced abundance in a situation that seemed to promise only disappointment? Where have you seen or participated in an activity, an event, or a movement that appeared to lack resources or broad support but that resulted in real progress or change? There are miracles all around us. And whether we are distributing, sharing, or receiving the bread Jesus gives, we are blessed.

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Today's Worship Leaders

	8:00 am	10:00 am
Assisting Ministers	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
Cantor	Jack Vos	Vickey Argo
Lector	Mary Kuhlman	Victoria Steadman
Communion Server	Jana Bishop	Phyllis Lietz
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Emmalee Peck
Usher	Mark/Jana Bishop	Gwen Hansen, Joe Longcor Sandy Mosteller
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack/Carol Vos	Eve Wright
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, August 13, 2017

Assisting Ministers	Chris Bush	Phil Poholski
Cantor	Mary Kuhlman	Kate Watson
Lector	Chris Bush	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Clyde Watson
Usher	Tom/Cheryl Drumm	Gary/Lisa Golnek Doug/Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Steve/Peg Kaiser	John/Mary Kleinbrink
Chancel Team	Chris Bush	

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, August 6

Monday, August 7

Sunday, August 13

Worship at 8:00 & 10:00 am

Communication Team 10:00 am

Noisy Offering