

Agnus Dei Lutheran Church

July 25, 2021

Pentecost 9

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Visit our website: <https://www.agnusdeilutheran.org/>

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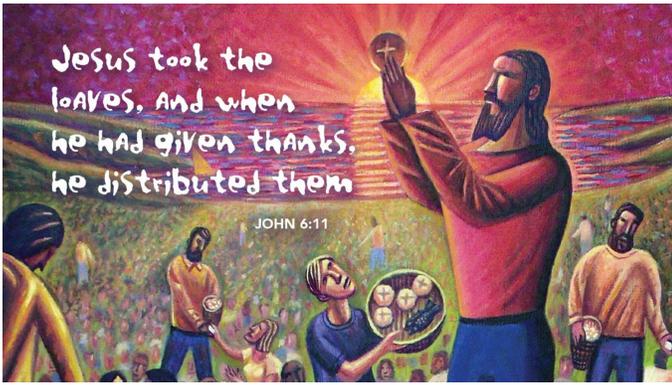


Image: Feeding the Five Thousand by James Janknegt. © James Janknegt. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Gather

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome

Prelude

Now Thank We All Our God

Paul Manz

A Service of Lament and Praise

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who upholds us through adversity,
who consoles us in our sorrows, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

A reading from Isaiah 54:10

For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed,
but my steadfast love shall not depart from you,
and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,
says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

A Prayer of Lament

We lament before you, O God, Comforter in our distress,
the losses that our congregation has suffered.
We have missed our weekly assembled worship,
our sharing of bread and cup,
our communal song,
our greetings of peace;
the full observances of holidays:
Christmas, Epiphany, the Three Days, Easter, Pentecost, and Trinity;
baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and memorial services;
gatherings for education;
time for fellowship and informal conversation;
the warmth of handshakes, smiles and hugs;
the mutual consolation of the faithful enacted each Sunday;
and we mourn neighbors, friends, and family who have died of COVID-19.

O God, we lament our losses, for they are many.

Restore us, gracious God.

C Restore us, gracious God.

We lament before you, O God, Sustainer of the universe,
the tragedies that our world has experienced.
We lament the millions sickened;
the countless dead;

thousands unemployed;
medical systems depleted;
economic security threatened;
government assistance inadequate;
political discord escalated;
despondency rampant;
racial injustice intensified;
communal engagements canceled.

O God, we lament the world's tragedies, for they are incalculable.
Heal us, compassionate God.

C Heal us, compassionate God.

Hear, O God, the laments of our hearts as we pray them silently or aloud, or add them in the chat or comments. *(In the space that follows, you may add your own laments)*

Psalm 91

John Bell

Whoever lives beside the Lord, sheltering in the Almighty's shade,
shall say, 'My God, in you I trust, my safety, my defender.'

You will not dread what darkness brings, hidden danger, deadly plague;
nor will you fear in daylight hours, the evil that surrounds you.

God says, 'I'll save from every harm those who know and love my name.
In trouble I will honor them and show them my salvation

A Prayer of Praise

Yet today, O God of the everlasting arms,
we rejoice at this re-gathering of our congregation:
we praise you for Sunday worship in word and sacrament;
for the personal presence of our pastor, our deacons, and neighbors
for infants, children, youth, adults, and the aged together;
for communal liturgy and live music;
for fellowship time;
for service with one another for the wider community;
for the mutual consolation of the faithful enacted on Sundays and weekdays;
for lessons learned and tools gained during this time of separation;
for stories and experiences of your presence and work among us in isolation.

O God, we rejoice at this re-gathering for baptismal life together.
Empower our church, faithful God.

C Empower our church, faithful God.

And we pray, O God of safe harbor, for the emergence of a wholesome world:
with health restored;
mourners consoled;
vaccines available;
hospitals restocked;
employment reinstated;
poverty averted;
sustenance shared;
science respected;
travel resumed;
fear replaced with confidence;
sorrow turned to joy.

O God, we pray for the emergence of a wholesome world.
Renew the whole world, merciful God.

C Renew the whole world, merciful God.

Hear, O God, the praises of our hearts as we pray them silently or aloud, or add them in the chat or comments. *(In the space that follows, you may add your own praises)*

Give us your peace, eternal God.

C Give us your peace, eternal God.

Gathering Song

Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living
a song of thanksgiving
to God the creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us,
protected and stayed us,
who still guides us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us,
God's light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into light.

Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Gracious God, you have placed within 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.

C Amen.

Word

First Reading

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."⁴³ But 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.'"⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

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.

Word of God, Word of Life.

C Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Gospel

John 6:1-21

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.

The Gospel of our Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Pastor Seth Novak

Hymn of the Day

All Who Hunger Gather Gladly

- 1 All who hunger gather gladly;
 holy manna is our bread.
 Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
 Here in truth we will be fed.
 You that yearn for days of fullness,
 all around us is our food.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.

- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
 seeker, be a welcome guest.
 Come from restlessness and roaming.
 Here in joy we keep the feast.
 We that once were lost and scattered
 in communion's love have stood.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.

- 3 All who hunger, sing together,
 Jesus Christ is living bread.
 Come from loneliness and longing.
 Here in peace we have been fed.
 Blest are those who from this table
 live their days in gratitude.
 Taste and see the grace eternal.
 Taste and see that God is good.

Prayers of Intercession

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations and mission congregations, this week we pray especially for Fear No Evil Dance Ministry in Tacoma, and Lauren Vignec. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat, especially in California and Oregon. We pray for our friends in Germany who have suffered great loss of human life and property due to devastating floods. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens, those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing. We pray now, especially for the families of Loren Carlander, for Elmer Wagner, for Selma Sloth and for Rose VanderKlomp who died this past week. We give thanks for those who have died as you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with the apostle James and all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For what and for whom do the people pray?
Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offertory

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Herman Stuempfle

*Loaves were broken, words were spoken by the Galilean shore.
Jesus, Bread of life from heaven, was their food forevermore.*

*By your body broken for us, by your wine of life outpoured,
Jesus, feed again your people. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.*

*By the loaves you break and give us, send us in your name to share
bread for which the millions hunger, words that tell your love and care.*

Offering Prayer

A Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive
here, your body for the life of the world.

C Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy God,
holy and mighty,
holy and immortal:
you we praise and glorify,
you we worship and adore.
You formed the earth from chaos;
you encircled the globe with air;
you created fire for warmth and light;
you nourish the lands with water.
You molded us in your image,
and with mercy higher than the mountains,
with grace deeper than the seas,
you blessed the Israelites and cherished
them as your own.
That also we, estranged and dying,
might be adopted to live in your Spirit,
you called to us through the life and death of Jesus.

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.

Together as the body of Christ,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

6 **Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Son,
the first-born of your new creation.
We remember his life lived for others,
and his death and resurrection, which renews the face
of the earth.
We await his coming,
when, with the world made perfect through your wis-
dom,
all our sins and sorrows will be no more.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, holy and merciful one, holy and compas-
sionate,
send upon us and this meal your Holy Spirit,
whose breath revives us for life,
whose fire rouses us to love.
Enfold in your arms all who share this holy food.
Nurture in us the fruits of the Spirit,
that we may be a living tree, sharing your bounty
with all the world.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Holy and benevolent God,
receive our praise and petitions,
as Jesus received the cry of the needy,
and fill us with your blessing,
until, needy no longer and bound to you in love,
we feast forever in the triumph of the Lamb:
through whom all glory and honor is yours, O God, O
Living One,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, now and
forever.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

All seeking God are welcome at Christ's Supper. For COVID safety, Holy Communion is currently being offered in one kind. The full grace of the sacrament is received with only the bread. Only gluten free bread is being served at the Meal.

We will remain in our seats to receive Communion. When instructed by the pastor, you are invited to remove your mask, receive Communion, and replace your mask. Thank you for respecting the health and safety of all present in the sanctuary by wearing your mask.

Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in life that is abundant and eternal.

C Amen.

Communion

Taste and See

Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.

Oh, taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Post Communion Prayer

A Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.

C Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

P Let us give thanks for the body of Christ, for God's house of living stones.

We give you thanks, O God, for you transcend the boundaries of space and time,
yet you are willing to make your home in human hearts.

We are the temple of your presence, gathered both physically in this building and digitally across cyberspace.

Gather us, wherever we may be, to share with others the promise of baptism,
to hear your word, to be nourished by the body and blood of your Son,
and to praise your name with all the company of heaven.

Send us out from this church building and from our homes to be the body of Christ in the world,
to proclaim your love in word and deed,
to invite others into the promise of baptism,
and to glorify your name in our daily living.

Pour out the abundance of your blessing on us and on all the places where we worship,
which we dedicate to your glory and honor and to the service of all people
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of the One who called you out of darkness into their marvelous light.

Almighty God,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Dismissal

A Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praeludium in C

J S Bach

Serving in Worship:

Presiding Minister: Pastor Seth Novak

Assisting Minister: 8:30 Randy Spitzer; 11:00 Bruce Shull

Minister of Music: Shari Shull, Deacon

Minister of Programs: Sister Ann Shultz, Deaconess

Church Musician: Susan Luebeck

Lector: 8:30 Lyle Miller; 11:00 Paula Davis

Cantors: 8:30: Randy and Laurie Spitzer

11:00: Phyllis Brandt, Marlene Bridgforth, Paula Davis, Serena Schmidt

Greeters and Ushers 8:30: Bob Beals, Dick and Lynette Brentin, Audrey Bakke

11:00 Dennis and Ardith Johnson, Ronnie Kulman, Denny Sapp

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Prelude: "Now Thank We All Our God" Paul Manz

Gathering Song: Let All Things Now Living

Hymn of the Day: "All Who Hunger Gather Gladly"

Offertory: "Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken" Herman Stuempfle

Agnus Dei: Text and music: Feast and Celebration Liturgy, Marty Haugen; © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Postlude: "Praeludium in C" J.S. Bach

Details of the events can be found on the Events page of our website, agnusdeilutheran.org

Sunday, July 25	8:30 AM Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion 9:35 AM Outdoor informal in-person celebration 11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion
Monday, July 26	
Tuesday, July 27	10:45 AM Staff Meeting
Wednesday, July 28	10 AM Hybrid Text Study 1:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet at the church, and on Zoom
Thursday, July 29	
Friday, July 30	
Saturday, July 31	
Sunday, August 1	8:30 AM Hybrid Worship with Holy Communion 11:00 AM Worship with Holy Communion

Sunday, August 1
Pentecost 10
Exod 16:2-4,9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Eph 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

A Place for Celebrations and Laments

We have much to lament and to celebrate from our time of Covid. The Liturgical Arts Committee will have a place in the narthex for you to share your celebrations and laments. You may add a photo or name or description of something you are thankful for or a lament from our time apart.

Refugee Resettlement– Circle of Welcome

With the approval and support of the church council, the Circle of Welcome team is moving forward with Lutheran Community Services NW in the process of supporting a refugee family coming to the US! We are just beginning this process, so you will see and hear more in weeks to come. If you are interested in taking part or have questions, you are welcome to contact the team coordinators: Debbie Snowden (253-381-8379) and Stephanie McCarthy (845-707-9294).

Hybrid Worship Begins Today

Today our building will reopen for in-person worship. Sunday services will resume inside the building at 8:30 and 11:00 am. The 8:30 service will be live streamed on our YouTube channel and will be available for viewing at anytime after that. Having both digitally and physically present volunteers is an important sign of the wholeness of our congregation. If you would like more information about how you can volunteer in hybrid worship as a reader or Assisting Minister, or to sign up, please email the church office at office@agnusdeilutheran.org

Sound System/ Worship Stream Team Volunteers Needed

We are building a team of volunteers to help with live streaming the 8:30 service and monitoring the sound board at the 11:00 service. You don't have to be a technology whiz to help. The only requirement for the job is a desire to help make worship accessible to everyone and an ability to look ahead in the bulletin. If you can do that, we can teach you the rest! Training sessions will be offered in the next few weeks. Please contact Mike or Debbie Snowden at 253-857-3081.