

Stilling The Storms of Life

Video Link: <https://youtu.be/hTqaTKMEj8k>

Order of Service for the 9th Sunday after Pentecost [Proper 17] ~ Sunday July 25, 2021

~ moving through our suffering – living inside the tragic gap ~

Presider: the Rev. Andrew Twiddy Assisting: Juliette, Alli, Holly, Alice, Luke

Lectionary Readings:

2 SAMUEL 11:1-15

(PSALM 14)

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

JOHN 6:1-21

Music for the day:

Hymns from *Common Praise* (1998) or the local parish booklet *Open Wide the Church's Door*

Opening	CP 607	Come Let Us to the Lord Our God <i>(all verses)</i>
Reflective	CP 455	Dear God, Compassionate and Kind <i>(all 5 verses)</i>
Gospel	CP 564	Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us <i>(all 3 verses)</i>
Offertory <i>(Hymn of the Day)</i>	(insert)	Seven Is Sufficient <i>(all 4 verses)</i>
Closing	CP 85	More Than We Can Ask or Imagine

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The Collect – the Prayer of the Day:

**Sustainer of the hungry,
you feed your children until each of us is satisfied.
Turn our eyes to you alone, so that,
aware of our own deepest longings,
we may reach out, with your Anointed One,
to feed others with the depth of your love. Amen.**

Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.



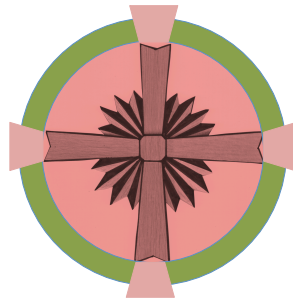
The West Coast Liturgy of the Diocese of Islands and Inlets

Sunday Service

(with Resources from West Coast Liturgy & Anglican Liturgy Online)

The Anglican Parish of Saint Anne & Saint Edmund
Parksville, British Columbia

*a centre for spiritual growth,
compassionate action, and creative arts*



~ oneopencircle.org ~

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Resources:

<https://bc.anglican.ca/resources/worship-resources>
<https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts/>

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS BEFORE GOD

Announcements & Worship Directions

CP 607 Come Let Us to the Lord Our God *(all verses)*

Words of Welcome & Acclamation:

In this time and place, many of us gather online from our homes on the ancestral territories of the Pentlatch-speaking peoples, the forebears of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As First Nations, and in the lands and the watersheds of the Kwakwaka'wakw, Nuuchahnulth and Coast Salish peoples.

Good morning, and welcome!

Gilakas 'la, klecko-klecko, huy'ceep q'u.

From many places and peoples we come to this house in prayer.

Voice: We gather in the name of the living God.

**All: We meet in the presence of Jesus, God's Anointed,
risen and alive.**

Voice: We gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages.

All: In this time and place, heaven and earth are one.

Voice: We are no longer alone. We are one in Christ.

All: We are knit together in the unity of the Spirit.

Presider:

In the name of the Holy and Blessed One,
Creator, Redeemer, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Centering Stillness

Presider: In a time of quietness, let us centre ourselves,
in openness to the Spirit of God. *(silence)*

Collect of the Day

**Sustainer of the hungry,
you feed your children until each of us is satisfied.
Turn our eyes to you alone, so that,
aware of our own deepest longings,
we may reach out, with your Anointed One,
to feed others with the depth of your love. Amen.**

Prayers for an Inclusive Church (2009) alt.

Lament and Grief

REMEMBERING OUR PART

As the Anglican church on these islands and inlets, we acknowledge our part in the genocide perpetrated on the First Peoples of Turtle Island and, to the extent that we are able, we have committed to journeying towards healing and reconciliation with First Nation, Inuit, and Metis peoples.

In the midst of remorse, lamentation and mourning for the loss of so many children buried in unmarked graves across our country, the settler church is called to listen to the stories, to bear witness to the grief and sorrow, and to prayerfully work towards healing for ourselves, for the First Peoples of this land, and for the world.

Let us pray now for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept

Have mercy upon us, most merciful God;
in your compassion, forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honour and glory of your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sentence

Thus says the Holy One:

A voice is heard in Ramah,

lamentation and bitter weeping.

Rachel is weeping for her children;

she refuses to be comforted for her children,

because they are no more. (Jeremiah 31.15)

PSALM VERSE:

Children are truly a heritage, from the Holy One

Psalm 127 *(a verse may be sung in Hebrew by Andrew; tune: Coventry Carol)*

A song for the journeys that take us upward. A song of Solomon.

¹ Unless the Holy One builds the house, those who build it labour in vain.*
 Unless the Holy One guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.

² It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil; *
for God gives sleep to us, the beloved ones.

³ Children are truly our heritage, from the Holy One, *
the fruit of the womb is so valuable for us all.

⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. *
Happy are those who have a quiver full of them.

⁵ They shall not be put to shame, *
when they speak with their opponents, at the gate of the courthouse.

Glory to the Creator, to the Word and the Wisdom,
to the Holy One and the Great Spirit. *

The one who is at the beginning, at the end, and is with us always.

Sung Response: Kyrie, Eleison (*Holy One, show compassion*)

Engaging The Word and the Wisdom

A First Reading: A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

Reader: A sensitivity alert ~ this is an unedited tale of the criminal and violent abuse of power. A reading from the Second Book of Samuel.

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house.

The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing."

Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom.

Thanks be to God

2 SAMUEL 11:1-15 ~ NRSV, alt.

Reflective Song

CP 455 Dear God, Compassionate and Kind *(all 5 verses)*

A Reading in Early Christian Scripture ~ Ephesians 3.8-10,14-19

Reader:

A Reading in Early Christian Scripture, from the Letter to the Christian Community in the City of Ephesus. The sheer amazing vastness of God's evolving love at work in the world.

⁸⁻¹⁰ And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of God's Anointed One. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in local communities, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

¹⁴⁻¹⁹ My response to all of this is to get down on my knees before our Beloved, our Father, this magnificent Beloved One who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask that you may be strengthened by God's Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that the Anointed One will live in you as you open the door and make the invitation.

And I ask God that you'll be able to take in, with both feet planted firmly on a foundation of love, and with all followers of Jesus, the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love.

Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

²⁰⁻²¹ God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! God does this, not by pushing us around, but by working within us ~ the Spirit at work deeply and gently within us. So I say,

Glory to God in the gathered community!
 Glory to God in the Anointed, in Jesus!
 Glory down all the generations!
 Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes, absolutely!

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God**

EPHESIANS 3:8-10, 14-19

Hymn for the Gospel Reading:

CP 564 Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us *(all 3 verses)*

The Gospel Reading:

Reader: Food for the hungry, stillness in life's storm. Sometimes, we really become aware that we have to rely on a power beyond ourselves.

The holy gospel, according to John.
*(All: **Glory to you, Jesus, God's Anointed**)*

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the key Jewish festival, was near.

When Jesus 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?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

Jesus 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. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed the loaves to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

When they were satisfied, Jesus told the disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.

When 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."

When 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.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom: The Gospel of Jesus, God's Anointed.

(... All: Praise to you, Jesus, God's Anointed)

JOHN 6:1-21 NRSV, alt. A. Twiddy (The Process)

A homily or reflection ~ Andrew

A time of quietness and/or instrumental music may follow the homily

An Affirmation of Faith

Leader: Let us affirm our faith.

All:

**We give our hearts in trust to God,
whose love is the source of all life
and the desire of our lives.**

**We give our hearts in trust to Jesus,
who came to bring us healing,
and to liberate us from all forms of oppression.**

**We give our hearts in trust to the Spirit of God,
who transforms and transfigures our world,
and who works in and through all
who are turned towards the truth.**

**Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful
and sometimes full of doubt,
we affirm our trust in the Community of Faith,
and in the name of Jesus Christ,
we commit ourselves to the service of all people,
to seek justice and to live in peace,
to care for the earth, and to share
the commonwealth of God's goodness. Amen.**

Hymn of the Day (The Offertory Hymn) - **Seven is Sufficient**

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SEVEN IS SUFFICIENT

Original Dutch Text by Willem Barnard
English Paraphrase by FRED KAAAN

SATB VERSION
(Hymn-style Format)

Music by
RON KLUSMEIER

1. For the crowd of thou - sands_ sit - ting on_ the ground,_
 2. Je - sus makes his of - fer_ fish and bread_ as food_

3. If we give to Je - sus_ bread to bless_ and break,_
 4. What we give to Je - sus_ and with oth - ers share,_

5. sev - en is suf - fi - cient_ sev - en will_ go round_ *Fine*
 Make us tru - ly thank - ful_ make our liv - ing good_ *Fermata for v. 4 only*
 five and two will feed_ us_ se - ven days_ a week_ *Fermata for v. 4 only*
 will at last be gath - ered:_ 'o - ver and_ to_ spare!

Refrain

9. Sev - en is suf - fi - cient_ fish and loaves of bread_ *(accomp.)*
 10. Je - sus, for our hun - ger_ gives us life in - stead.

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The Lifting Up of the Offering

The presider or an assistant lifts up in prayer an offering plate or basket, containing symbols of our prayers for the world, the church, and the special needs of the day. We include the names of parishioners, community partners, and all others in our various cycles of prayer, along with the names of those who have requested our prayers

An Invitation to Weekly & Daily Prayer

in our cycle of prayer this day and throughout this week, we give thanks and we pray together for the well-being of the world, the church, and those in special need

We give thank and we pray for peace, justice, and well-being throughout the world:

- giving thanks for all whose lives of service promote the common good
- honouring First Nations on whose traditional territories we live and work
- asking that we may grow in our resolve to respond to climate crisis, and to care for our planet
- seeking a spirit of reconciliation & collaboration among nations, faiths, & cultures
- and remembering our governmental leaders and elected representatives,
in the municipal, provincial, federal, and international work they undertake

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for the mission and ministry of our wider family in faith:

- for ecumenical and interspiritual co-operation, and for all our neighbouring churches
- for our partnership in the Anglican communion throughout the world:
for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; for Linda our Primate; for Lynne our Metropolitan;
and for all with whom they work and serve
- for Mark our National Indigenous Archbishop, Melanie our Reconciliation Animator, for our journey in faith and solidarity with the Council of the North, and for the work of all our Indigenous Anglican communities

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for the mission and ministry of our own parish and diocesan family, remembering especially:

- all our members, associates, and friends who share in our ministry
- for the ministry of all our parish groups, networks, partners & organizations
- for all parishes of our diocese, especially remembering ...
- for Anna our Bishop, and for our priests Andrew & Christine, in ministry among & beyond us;

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

We give thanks and we pray for those who express care and compassion,

- for those working on the frontlines of care and service in a time of global pandemic, for leaders in health care, and for research workers and those who work behind the scenes to bring relief, hope, and healing
- for the work of the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund and its global partners, for the Canadian Food Grains Bank and those responding to global hunger, drought, floods, fires, migration, and displacement
- remembering those who reach out to the needy and to vulnerable populations in our local community, & those who nurture all the circles of our citizenship, both nationally and around the world
- for the work of our local agencies serving and advocating for those on the margins, and for those who face issues of homelessness, addiction, and mental health

God of love and compassion hear our prayer

As we stand in solidarity alongside all those in need, we pray:

- for those suffering from Coronavirus, through illness, anxiety, or isolation
- for those in trouble, sorrow, conflict, sickness, or any other adversity ...
- and in silence or aloud, we remember the special needs of those requesting our prayers ...

God of love and compassion hear our prayer



Prayers of the People:

In peace, we pray to you, God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For Anna our bishop, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

Hear us, God; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, God, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The people may add their own thanksgivings.

We will exalt you, O God;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ,
and for those whose faith is known to you alone,
that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The people may add their own petitions.

God, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.



We gather all our prayers into one, and following the pattern that
Jesus gave us, we pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

The Peace

From our hearts to your hearts, from satellite to soul...
 The peace of God be always with you. **And also with you.**

A Blessing

Presider:

May God's hidden presence bless you and keep you.
 May God's unseen face shine compassion on you.
 May God's smile caress you, and give you peace.
 In the name of the one beyond all naming, +
 strong, vulnerable, and compassionate, +
 the Creator, the Holy One, the Great Spirit. +
 Amen. Amen.

Closing Hymn:

CP 85 More Than We Can Ask or Imagine

A Commissioning for Service

Voice: May God send us forth with a ***restless discomfort*** ~
at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
so that we may live deep within our hearts.

Voice: May God send us forth with a ***holy foolishness*** ~
with a confidence that we can make a difference in this world,
to restore justice, to offer kindness, and to heal the earth.

Voice: Go in peace, to love and to serve

All: Thanks be to God.

Video Information

Stilling Life's Storms

<https://youtu.be/hTqaTKMEj8k>

Sunday Service for July 25, 2021 ~
The 9th Sunday After Pentecost, Proper 17, Cycle B (Green, Orange)

The Rev. Andrew Twiddy presiding

Looking for Quick Access on the Video?

- 0.01 ~ Prelude ~ Guitar Meditation on Pachelbel's Canon
- 0.02 ~ Welcome and Call to Worship
- 3.43 ~ Opening Hymn of Confession ~ (607) ~ Come Let Us to the Lord our God
- 9.01 ~ Collect of the Day
- 9.35 ~ Lamenting and Grieving for the Lost Children (*Psalm 127, Confession*)
- 16.50 ~ Readings (Juliette, Holly)
- 20.51 ~ Reflective Hymn (455): Dear God, Compassionate and Kind
- 26.55 ~ Hymn (564) ~ Lead Us, Heavenly Father, Lead Us
- 29.05 ~ Gospel Reading
- 33.17 – 50.59 ~ Talking the Walk, Walking the Talk:**
Stilling Life's Storms
- 52.13 ~ An Affirmation of Faith
- 53.12 ~ Offertory & Song (*insert*) ~ Seven Is Sufficient
- 56.25 ~ Prayers
- 1.04.01 ~ The Peace and the Blessing
- 1.04.51 ~ Closing Hymn (85) ~ More Than We Can Ask or Imagine
- 1.08.04 ~ Commissioning for Service

Listed Anglican Church of Canada Readings (NRSV text) & Prayers from:

<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2021-07-25>

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost [Proper 17] (Green)

Sunday, July 25th, 2021

2 SAMUEL 11:1-15; PSALM 14; EPHESIANS 3:14-21; JOHN 6:1-21

Collect

O God,
the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy,
increase and multiply upon us your mercy,
that with you as our ruler and guide,
we may so pass through things temporal,
that we lose not the things eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

First Reading

A READING FROM THE SECOND BOOK OF SAMUEL

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he

may be struck down and die."
2 SAMUEL 11:1-15

Psalm

PSALM

REFRAIN The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all.

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.

The Lord looks down from heaven upon us all, to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God. R

Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; there is none who does good; no, not one.

Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the Lord? R

See how they tremble with fear, because God is in the company of the righteous. Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, but the Lord is their refuge. R

Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! when the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad. R
PSALM 14

Second Reading

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I 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, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

EPHESIANS 3:14-21

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When 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?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus 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. Then 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. When they were satisfied,

he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When 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." When 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. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

JOHN 6:1-21

Prayer over the Gifts

God of grace,
accept all we offer you this day,
as we look toward the glory you have promised.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Prayer After Communion

God of grace,
we have received the memorial
of the death and resurrection of your Son.
May your love, poured into us,
bring us to your promises.
We ask this in the name of our Redeemer Jesus Christ.

The Message – Ephesians 3

8-10 And so here I am, preaching and writing about things that are way over my head, the inexhaustible riches and generosity of Christ. My task is to bring out in the open and make plain what God, who created all this in the first place, has been doing in secret and behind the scenes all along. Through followers of Jesus like yourselves gathered in churches, this extraordinary plan of God is becoming known and talked about even among the angels!

11-13 All this is proceeding along lines planned all along by God and then executed in Christ Jesus. When we trust in him, we're free to say whatever needs to be said, bold to go wherever we need to go. So don't let my present trouble on your behalf get you down. Be proud!

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14-19 My response is to get down on my knees before the Father, this magnificent Father who parcels out all heaven and earth. I ask him to strengthen you by his Spirit—not a brute strength but a glorious inner strength—that Christ will live in you as you open the door and invite him in. And I ask him that with both feet planted firmly on love, you'll be able to take in with all followers of Jesus the

extravagant dimensions of Christ's love. Reach out and experience the breadth! Test its length! Plumb the depths! Rise to the heights! Live full lives, full in the fullness of God.

²⁰⁻²¹ God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!
 Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!
 Glory down all the generations!
 Glory through all millennia! Oh, yes!

Alternative Collects

Sunday between 24 and 30 July (Proper 17) 2 Samuel 11.1-15; Psalm 14; Ephesians 3.14-21; John 6.1-21

I In your compassionate love, O God, you nourish us with words of life and bread of blessing. Grant that Jesus may calm our fears, and move our hearts to praise your goodness by sharing our bread with others. Amen.
 Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.

II Sustainer of the hungry, like a mother you feed your children until each is satisfied. Turn our eyes to you alone, so that, aware of our own deepest longings, we reach out with Christ to feed others with the depth of your love. Amen. Revised Common Lectionary Prayers (2002) alt.