



50A PENTECOST 9A LITURGY

The hour is late

Abstract

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

"Bring them here to me," he said.

Matthew 14:15–18

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50A Pentecost 9A Liturgy

The hour is late

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2020 | AFTER PENTECOST | PROPER 13 | YEAR A

Old Testament & Psalm, Option I

Old Testament Genesis 32:22–31

Psalm Psalm 17:1–7, 15

or

Old Testament & Psalm, Option II

Old Testament Isaiah 55:1–5

Psalm Psalm 145:8–9, 14–21

New Testament Romans 9:1–5

Gospel Matthew 14:13–21

Matthew 14.13-21

In a dramatically political atmosphere, Jesus organises a meal for a multitude in the wilderness as a sign of compassion, and a lesson to the disciples that they need to look around them, see the need and meet it.

This week's resources explore: bringing people together; the need to share while there is still time.

	<p>Pre-Service Your Grace Is Enough - Matt Maher</p>
	<p>Greeting</p> <p>May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all</p> <p>and also with us</p>
	<p>We Gather</p> <p>Let us sit quietly for a moment, and think about our journey here today, and how we are feeling now. Are we ready to give God our full attention and worship him?</p> <p>Then let us come together to share in God's love, to lift our hearts and voices in praise and worship, to seek God's blessing with a new and deep experience of God's power and generosity.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Mighty God of miracles, we come before you. We imagine what it might have been like being part of a crowd of 5,000.</p>

	<p>There may be far fewer of us here today, but we think about the people in other churches in our town, village, country, and on the internet also worshipping you. Bound together by your great love, we gather in spirit to meet with you, Jesus.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Hymn/song Christ be our light Farrell</p>
	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> Dear God, you look deep inside us, seeing not only our outer but our inner needs. Have compassion on us, we pray. Feed us today from your holy word, and we will be filled.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Readings <i>Matthew 14:13–21</i> ¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” ¹⁶ Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” ¹⁷ “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. ¹⁸ “Bring them here to me,” he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. ¹</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord Thanks be to God</p>
	<p>Hymn/song/video TIS 474/AOV/various Gather us in Haugen</p>
	<p>We say Sorry</p>

¹ [Revised Common Lectionary](#). (2009). Bellingham, WA: Faithlife.

Sometimes, Lord,
I know I don't listen properly to you.
I'm easily distracted.
Or I listen, but still go my own way,
putting myself first.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord, I don't trust you
to meet my needs,
to take care of me,
to feed me with food both physical and spiritual.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord,
I'm anything but prepared for my journey with you.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.

Sometimes, Lord,
I look for my own ways out of a situation,
instead of seeking and trusting you.
Forgiven by you, I can start anew.
Amen.

Hymn/Song

TIS 538 Feed us now Mann

Response

The hour is late
Matthew 14:13-21

The hour is late but it's never too late.

A 13 year old boy heard about Dr. Albert Schweitzer's work in Africa.
He had enough pocket money to buy a bottle of aspirin
And wrote to the Airforce asking if they could drop it down to him.
It was a cute story, and a radio station told the story and others responded as well.
Eventually, he was flown by the government to Schweitzer's hospital
with 4000 kilograms of medical supplies worth more than \$M 0.5.
When Dr. Schweitzer heard the story, he said,
"I never thought one child could do so much."

We are not told how old the child was who offered his 5 loaves and 2 small fish to
Jesus.

Neither Matthew nor Luke even mention him.
They simply record that in answer to Jesus' request
the disciples came up with 5 loaves and a couple of fish
with which to feed a vast throng.
The Gospel writers even differ in their estimate of the size crowd.

There is a story about a young minister preaching his first sermon in a tiny country
church.

He was sooo nervous.
As he tried to talk about this text he uttered

"The Master fed the multitude with 5,000 loaves and 2,000 fish."
An old fellow sitting on the front row muttered, "Why I could do that."

The next Sunday the young pastor tried again.
"Last Sunday I meant to say that the Master fed 5,000 people
with five loaves and two tiny fish."
Then he turned to the old man and asked, "Could you do that?"

The old fellow grinned and said,
"I could if you'd let me use what we had left over last week."
Of course, the size of the crowd doesn't really matter.
The point of the story is Jesus' compassion and his ability to feed the hungry.

I'm glad that the Gospel of John brings him to our attention.
We may have young people in listening to this
and they too are important to the work of Christ.
Occasionally, when something important needs to be done,
a young person will step forward and make a difference.
We all share a very deep concern.

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO GO TO BED HUNGRY EVERY NIGHT.

Someone has noted that the average person BLINKS his eyes 13 times every minute.
The same person also noted that 13 PEOPLE STARVE TO DEATH every minute in this
world. That means, of course, that every time we blink our eyes,
another person has died from starvation.

Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 disappeared
on the 8th of March, 2014 with 239 people including children on board.
We still mourn their loss.

"Such a great number of deaths is not farfetched.
40,000 children die each day from hunger related diseases."ⁱ
Not to mention the Millions of people go to bed hungry every night.
The mind can hardly grasp the scope of such a catastrophe.
And this hunger persists although we live in such a bountiful world.

We live in a world where 5% of the population eat half the food we produce.
In the 1950's and 60's scientists were predicting world famine by 1985.
They were wrong.
There is plenty of food to feed the world's people.
We don't really have a food problem.
What we have are people problems.
What we have are distribution of resources problems.
There are some things we can't do anything about
but some things we can.

In Victoria this week, we are horrified by over 400 new COVID-19 infections some
days.
In North America, South America, Asia and Africa there are 60,000 new
cases every day.

Many of those worlds don't have the Medical support we enjoy.

A few years ago, I was in Northern India at an international conference for Radiographers.

Flying home through Singapore I was hospitalised with Dengue Fever.
A woman commiserated with my wife that "she couldn't think of anything worse."
With a humiliation my wife answered,
"We have just flown out of Northern India, I can!"

We can rethink our own stewardship of the earth's resources.

We need to recognize that, as Christians,
we are accountable for the needs of our neighbours
whether next door or around the world.

There is a story about a missionary team in Africa.

As they were about to go down the Congo river on their boat,
a native chieftain called to them:

"White man, I want you to come and tell my people about your God."

The leader of the mission group answered,

"We can't come today.

We have an appointment downstream this morning.

We will come another day."

The chief persisted, "No you must come today and tell my people about your great God."

As the mission team pushed off to leave, the chief waded out into the water
calling after the missionaries,

"White man, if you don't come tell my people about your God,
I'll tell your God on you!"

I hope nobody ever tells God

that we heard that 40,000 children are dying each day from hunger related diseases
and we did so little to help.

But of course, we need to recognize that there are hungers in this world for more
than bread.

Some of those hungers are right here in our very own communities.

When this pandemic began, many wondered what the church would look like
as we were unable to worship in our churches.

In truth, I have never seen it stronger.

In one small example, the premier of my state as asked everyone to wear masks.

There are of course not enough to go round,
and others can't afford them.

Without being asked, I have come across people everywhere

Making 20, 30, 70 masks to give away.

You can't now buy elastic in my town anymore
as we in our isolation, feed the hunger.

There are other hungers as well.
 Hungers of vulnerability, homelessness, poverty, domestic violence, grief.
 I hope nobody tells God
 that we heard of so many hungry people that we didn't help.

Tell me, what is it that you are doing because of your Christian commitment?
 Each of us can do something.
 Each of us has fish and loaves to offer.

Out of compassion, when Jesus saw 5000 hungry people, he fed them.
 He is asking the same of us.
 And the hour is late.

Amen

Bibliography

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<https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k2238>
 Author: Patrick Webb, Gunhild Anker Stordalen, Sudhvir Singh, Ramani Wijesinha-Bettoni, Prakash Shetty, Anna Lartey

Hymn/song

TIS 690 Beauty for brokenness Kendrick

Prayers for all people

Imagine the fish and the bread, food for the hungry crowd

Jesus said:
 'Come, follow me and I will send you out to fish for people',
 'Whoever comes to me will never go hungry
 and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Let us remember
 something we are grateful for in their lives;
 someone we know who needs Jesus.

Let us pray

Lord God,
 we gratefully receive your gifts of fish and bread.

Bless us abundantly
 as we seek opportunities
 to share you with those around us.

Lord, a new week lies ahead of us

	<p>and we don't really know what it will bring. Help us to be aware of people around us who are struggling in any way. May we be sensitive to their needs and seek your wisdom as we come alongside them. We want to be there for them, Lord, bearing your blessing.</p> <p>Lord, today, we pray for people who have little or nothing: for those who feel trapped in their situation, and can't see the bigger picture, or even any tiny glimmer of light.</p> <p>We pray for people who are hungry: for parents who struggle to feed their children, and themselves. We thank you for the work of food banks, and pray that they would have the resources to continue to meet so many needs.</p> <p>We pray that you would give us an appreciation of our food: the work that goes into producing and distributing it. Teach us not to be wasteful, but to preserve and pass on the goodness of your earth.</p> <p>Amen.</p>
	<p>Lord's Prayer</p> <p>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. AMEN²</p>
	<p>Hymn/song TIS 129 Amazing grace Newton</p>
	<p>We are sent out</p> <p>By the end of the day, the crowds must have been exhausted. They left with full stomachs and full hearts. They had met with Jesus.</p> <p>You have fed us this morning, Lord, and we go out to live the lives you call us to.</p>

² English Language Liturgical Consultation, 1988

	<p>May we be conscious of your perfect timing in our lives, as we reach out to the outsiders as well as to our own. Bless us, Lord. Amen.</p> <p>May the Lord bless us and keep us May His face shine upon us and be gracious to us May he lift up His countenance upon us and give us peace</p>
	<p>Benediction TIS 670 Jesus put this song into our hearts Kendrick</p>
	<p>Thank you</p>

ⁱ Tom Peterson, "Child Survival," THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY, July 18, 1987.