



## 49B Pentecost 9B – Online liturgy

### A big lunch

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021 | PENTECOST 9B | PROPER 12 | YEAR B

*Old Testament & Psalm, Option I*

*Old Testament*    2 Samuel 11:1–15

*Psalm*                Psalm 14

*or*

*Old Testament & Psalm, Option II*

*Old Testament*    2 Kings 4:42–44

*Psalm*                Psalm 145:10–18

*New Testament*    Ephesians 3:14–21

*Gospel*                John 6:1–21<sup>1</sup>

A large crowd have been closely following Jesus, and Jesus questions his disciples as to how they will provide hospitality to the horde. Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, brings a young boy's small offering to Jesus, unsure of how a trivial contribution could be used. Jesus takes the offering, thanks God for it and feeds about five thousand people – with 12 baskets left over.

Could you enjoy a picnic with friends, relying on everyone bringing something to share, or would you think you had nothing to contribute to the meal? When a boy gave his picnic to Jesus, everyone was blessed by God's sharing economy. We bring; God multiplies; all receive – whoever we are!

This week we explore bringing what we have and sharing what God makes of it.

	<b>Pre-Service</b>
	<b>Introit</b> TIS 745 Seek ye first    Lafferty
	<b>Greeting</b>  May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ The Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all  <b>and also with us</b>
	<b>We Gather</b> Let us bring ourselves to God, whatever our age and gifts. Let us prepare to share in worship, giving thanks for all that God shares with us. Let us open our hearts and minds to know more of God's unconditional love and care, and be ready to share it with others.

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

	<p><b>Acknowledgements</b></p> <p>Lord of all creation, giver of life, we offer ourselves to you. Teach us how to give ourselves to others, generously and wholeheartedly, sharing who we are and what we have. May we learn to share all the world's resources, so that everyone has enough of the good things that you provide. May we all rejoice in your goodness. Amen.</p>
	<p><b>We say Sorry</b></p> <p>With our time and with our money: <b>forgive us, Lord, when we have not been generous.</b> In helping others, and being hospitable: <b>forgive us, Lord, when we have not been generous.</b> When we have been blessed with so much: <b>forgive us, Lord, when we have not been generous.</b> When we could have gone the extra mile and shared what we have: <b>forgive us, Lord, when we have not been generous.</b> In using our resources, gifts and talents: <b>forgive us, Lord, when we have not been generous.</b> Most generous God, help us to be more like you. Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Words of Assurance</b></p> <p>God, you forgive us when we make mistakes, when we have not shared what you have given us. We come to the cross knowing that we are healed and forgiven, and given a second chance to be the people you call us to be. <b>Amen.</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song</b> TIS 670 Jesus put this song into our hearts      Kendrick</p>
	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>A large crowd have been closely following Jesus, and Jesus questions his disciples as to how they will provide hospitality to the horde. Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, brings a young boy's small offering to Jesus, unsure of how a trivial contribution could be used. Jesus takes the offering, thanks God for it, and feeds about five thousand people with 12 baskets left over.</p> <p>Could you enjoy a picnic with friends, relying on everyone else to bring something to share,</p>

	<p>or would you think you had nothing to contribute to the meal and feel embarrassed?</p> <p>When a boy gave his picnic to Jesus, everyone was blessed by God's sharing economy.</p> <p>Every time we bring; God multiplies; all receive – whoever we are!</p> <p>This week we explore bringing what we have and sharing what God makes of it.</p> <p><i>Let us pray</i> God, our generous provider, as the young boy offered all he had to Jesus – five loaves and two small fish – we come today offering you everything we have: a pocketful of faith, a bit of time, ourselves, our gifts, our talents. And we know that, however small our gift or offering, you will do amazing things with it, far more than we can ever hope, believe or imagine. Thank you, awesome God. Amen.</p>
	<p><b>Readings</b> John 6.1-21</p> <p><i>respond</i> For the word of the Lord</p> <p><b>Thanks be to God</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/song/video</b></p>
	<p><b>Hymn/Song</b></p>

### Response

Imagine that you are the little boy in the crowd,  
holding the cloth bag with your lunch in it.  
You move it around in your hands nervously,  
as you see the crowd,  
and hear Jesus asking his disciples  
how they'll feed everyone.  
He asks himself: What can I do with just this little I have?

Imagine being Andrew,  
the little boy tugging on your sleeve, holding up his bag with his picnic lunch  
and he asks himself,  
can I seriously take this little offering to Jesus?

Imagine being the other disciples seeing this play out before your eyes  
a small boy, one of our own  
this preposterous notion that so little could go do anything for so many.

Imagine a mounting sense for everyone of awe  
as Jesus takes the nothing that is offered  
and turns it into a feast for so many.

On a hill in Galilee, a boy offered his lunch.  
In 'lockdown', did we help someone,  
did someone offer us food,  
did we deliver food donated by others?

Huge numbers of ordinary people have pulled together in this time of stress  
so that everyone was looked after.  
Many did jobs out of their normal experience.  
Religious groups delivered food parcels.  
Professionals drove a delivery vans.  
Office workers helped on the shop floors.  
Children earned sponsorship money and gave it away.

What about you?

What in your life can you offer to God that he can take and use?

In worship,  
do we sometimes feel too awkward or embarrassed to offer to be involved  
because we think we have too little to offer.

Spare a thought for Andrew  
who took those few morsels of food,  
suggesting it might help feed a crowd!

But, maybe we don't need the answers to 'how',  
rather we need to have faith that what we bring,  
however much it is

God will multiply.

The feeding of the five thousand is a familiar story.  
It brings us a setting we can visualise,  
several characters playing their part,  
and an outcome that we can see either as miraculous  
or as a stirring human conscience.

Did Jesus multiply the food  
or did everyone suddenly join in and share what they had?

Either way,  
it all started with a boy  
who was bold enough to approach adults who had a problem,  
to dare to suggest a solution  
to dare to have faith.

The story illustrates how God wants to receive whatever we bring to him,  
and that everyone can contribute,  
because nothing is too little to offer.

Even our smallest effort will be multiplied by God  
so that all can receive and be satisfied.  
Can that idea be reflected in our opinion of ourselves?  
Could you really work alongside God in this way?  
Do we have enough faith to work alongside God in this way?

Might you have been the boy with the picnic,  
feeling too young and insignificant to expect to be noticed,  
yet itching to help?  
Or Andrew, the hesitant disciple wondering  
why he had opened his mouth to say, '  
Let's feed all these with this little?'  
But he said it anyway.

To give all that we have, wholeheartedly,  
requires faith that we will still have what we need.  
When we trust God for our daily bread, every day,  
we can be generous with today's bread.  
God will, in his generous love, provide for tomorrow.

In communion, we give thanks  
then we are fed with bread and wine.  
In today's reading,  
Jesus gave thanks, then gave food.

When we are consciously thankful for what we have,  
we can realise how richly abundant our lives are  
and be liberated to share more freely.

Giving in God's economy is not by some financial calculation  
but from the spontaneous desire to let God multiply it  
so all may receive enough.

On those occasions when we are on the receiving end of another's giving,  
we should acknowledge God's blessing with gratitude.

The hope is  
that those who receive blessings  
will share them with others.

And as you share what has God given you  
he will multiply it if you share it.

Amen

	<b>Hymn/song</b> TIS 538 Feed us now MannA big lunch
	<b>Offering</b>

	<b>Notices</b>
	<b>Prayers for all people</b>
	<b>Lord's Prayer</b>
	<b>Hymn/song</b> TIS 535/SOF 200      I am the bread of life      Toolan
	<p><b>We are sent out</b></p> <p>Lord, help us to remain thankful for even the simple things. Keep us focused on your loving, generous nature, so that we can freely share what we have and who we are. Let us be cheerful givers and humble receivers, that all may have enough and be satisfied. 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>
	<b>Benediction</b>
	<b>Thank you</b>

