

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 8th, 2021



CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

140 Russell Avenue
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1
Church: 905-685-8294 Fax 905-685-7661
www.christlutheransc.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon
Bulletin Announcements: Please send to secretary@christlutheransc.ca.
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

Pastor:	Pastor Todd Hoefts	(289-362-0113)	pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com
Parish Assistant:	Louise Gondosch	(905-329-8579)	parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca
Business Manager:	Karen McCumber		business.manager@christlutheransc.ca
Secretary:	Pat Kimpel		secretary@christlutheransc.ca
Facebook:	Lisa Gall		www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC
Bulletin by email:	Judy Mason		chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca

Prayer: Let Your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend Your Church; and because it cannot continue in safety without Your help, protect and govern it always by Your goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Musician: Mayumi Munoz
Reader: Dan Figueroa

Sunday School: “God Helps Us When We Worry” <https://youtu.be/Z0Cy7U8wBfM>
Children’s Message: Ephesians 4: 32 <https://youtu.be/3wsZyXnb7qo>
Summer Session: “God I Need to Talk to You about Whining” https://youtu.be/KUsQU72T_Qo

DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:

Monday: 1 Tim. 2: 1-7	Wed.: 1 Pet. 2: 13-16	Friday: Jer. 18: 1-6
Tuesday: Neh. 4: 1-15	Thurs: Rom.13: 1-7	Saturday: Rom. 9: 1-5

WORSHIP NOTE:

In compliance with Ontario Provincial Step 3, we can now offer in-person worship with allowances for social distancing.

- **Sunday Service will be live-streamed at 10 AM on Facebook:** (<https://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC/>).
- Following the service, a recording will be uploaded to YouTube – “Gathering the Scattered” at: (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3a4p6prdJGEyP5S-q-cNSg>).
- A PDF version of the order of service for each Sunday will also be posted on our church website: christlutheransc.ca.
- Archived videos of Sunday’s service will be uploaded to christlutheransc.ca – “Worship” page.

Any questions or concerns, please check out our church website (<http://christlutheransc.ca/>), contact Judy Slingerland (chairman.worship@christlutheransc.ca) or Pastor Todd (pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com). or phone the church office. May the peace of the risen Lord be with you all.

OUR DEEPEST CONDOLENCES: Our beloved **ERNA McBRIDE** entered into eternal rest in Christ on August 1, 2021 at 12 noon. A memorial service is being planned for September 10th at 11 a.m. Please keep her son David [Catharine] and their family and many friends in prayer during this time of loss trusting in the blessed reunion which awaits all the faithful.

BAPTISM THIS MORNING: We are pleased to welcome **Grayson Robert James Crawford**, son of Jeff and Meaghan Crawford with sponsors Tia McKellar and Nate Barlow into Christ’s family by Holy Baptism today. May God bless Grayson with a lifetime of rich blessings and protection.

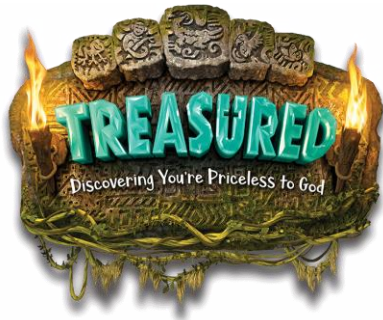
FLOWERS have been placed on the altar this morning to the Glory of God by Tim & Elly Reck on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary on August 12th.

PASTOR TODD & FAMILY will be away on vacation from Monday, August 9 through Monday, August 16, 2021. Circuit Counsellor Rev. Kurt Lantz will be available for pastoral emergencies [phone 905-688-1126 or email--pastorlantz@cogeco.ca]. Rev. John Makey will lead the service on Aug.15th.

VOTER'S MEETING: Sunday, September 19th, 2:00 pm – Voters Meeting (tentative based on public health restrictions). Election of Church Council and ratification of Council decisions made under COVID-19 restrictions.

Online VBS: “TREASURED: DISCOVERING *YOU'RE PRICELESS TO GOD*”
If you or someone you know think they missed out on this year's VBS ... start smiling! It's online, which means you can access it from our church website (www.christlutheransc.ca) until August 30. You can even watch one day each week until the end of August (which gives more time to memorize the bible verses!)

To receive the "special pack" which includes all 5 Bible Verse Memory Buddies, materials for all 5 crafts, ideas and extra supplies for the games, simply register your child by emailing secretary@christlutheransc.ca or by calling the church office at 905-685-8294 or Louise at 905-329-8579 and we will help you make arrangements to come and pick it up from the church.



You are invited to our “online VBS”

“TREASURED:
Discovering You're Priceless to God”

You'll discover Gods greatest treasure isn't gems, silver or gold - IT'S YOU!!

Join us online for Bible learning activities, catchy songs, games and crafts. Collect Bible Memory Buddies that help remind us of God's love.

LINKS TO ALL 5 DAYS:

Day 1

<https://youtu.be/BVx246ZB7HM>

“VBS TREASURED: Discovering you're priceless to God”

Day 2

<https://youtu.be/BVx246ZB7HM>

“VBS TREASURED: Discovering you're priceless to God”

DAY 3

<https://youtu.be/ym1ri7bAG6k>

“VBS TREASURED: Discovering you are priceless to God.”

DAY 4

<https://youtu.be/JIOnlfeEK1g>

“VBS TREASURED: Discovering You are Priceless to God.”

DAY 5

<https://youtu.be/YJrxAww05Gk>

“VBS TREASURED: Discovering You're Priceless God.”

Last Sunday Attendance: Aug. 1st, 2021 Attn: 10 a.m. – 61

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Weekly Need</u>	<u>Last Sunday</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>	<u>+ or – (--)</u>
Current:	271,175.00	5,214.90	2,901.00	107,716.04	(43,516.17)
Missions	20,000.00	384.62	305.00	9,802.50	(1,351.35)
Property Improvement:			224.00	3,384.50	

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If you would like to place flowers on the altar, please sign your name at the back of the church or email: secretary@christlutheransc.ca. Cost is \$25/bouquet

THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN: The Canadian Lutheran is available to read online at:
WWW.CANADIANLUTHERAN.CA

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC: It's important for members to keep in mind that expenses for payroll, utilities, maintenance, etc. continue to accumulate even when you are not comfortable attending service.

1. THROUGH EFT DONATIONS: Lutheran Church - Canada, East District Corporation continues to facilitate this service for us. To assist you in continuing your financial support to your church, we encourage you to fill out the form that is available for printing at:

http://christlutheransc.ca/?page_id=96 and then mail the form along with a voided cheque to:

Lutheran Church-Canada, East District Corporation
275 Lawrence Ave., Kitchener, ON N2M 1Y3
Attn: Darryll Holland

2. BY MAIL: cheques can still be mailed to:

Christ Lutheran Church
140 Russell Ave. St. Catharines, ON L2R 1W1

or dropped in the Church mailbox at the East entrance.

3. ONLINE VIA LUTHERAN CHURCH-CANADA: Lutheran Church-Canada has opened a web portal that allows parishioners to donate directly to their home church:

<https://lutheranchurch-canada.tng-secure.com/?pageId=donation-edit&categoryId=10972>

select "St. Catharines-Christ Lutheran-30950" from the drop down menu, enter the amount of your donations and LCC will transfer your donation to Christ. Donation is via VISA or Mastercard. Tax receipts will be issued by LCC (not Christ).

This opportunity will be in effect until the COVID-19 emergency is over.

CREATIVE COMMUNION

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

BAPTISM HYMN: "Baptized In Water" ("Praise & Thanksgiving" tune)

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ our king:
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now His praises we sing**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ our king:
One with His rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now His praises we sing.**

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ our king:
Born of the Spirit, we are God's children; joyfully now His praises we sing.**

*Words: Michael Saward (1932); © by Jubilate Hymns, Ltd. (admin. by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188). All rights reserved.
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+ Baptism of Grayson Robert James Crawford +

Parents Jeffrey & Meaghan Barlow Crawford

Sponsors: Tia McKellar & Nathan Barlow

ORDER OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Lutheran Church of Australia Worship Resources

SCRIPTURAL COMMAND:

Our Lord Jesus Christ says: All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to keep everything I have entrusted to you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

ADDRESS:

Scripture teaches that we are born sinful and unclean. So our heavenly Father washes us clean in the waters of baptism. We are re-born as His children as the Holy Spirit renews us and gives us eternal life. Through baptism He graciously forgives us our sins and unites us with our Lord Jesus Christ, so that we share in His death and resurrection.

PRESENTATION:

Who brings this child for holy baptism? **I/we do.**

How is this child named? (Name is spoken)

ADMONITION:

Since you as parents and sponsors have brought (Name) to be baptized, you are responsible for his/her upbringing in the Lutheran Church. Remember him/her in your prayers. Bring him/her to the services in God's House and teach him/her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. Remind him/her of her baptism, set him/her a good example, and provide for his/her instruction in the faith that he/she may join you and all believers around the Lord's Table to feast on Jesus' Body and Blood. Do you intend to joyfully do this?

Yes, I/we do.

MARKING OF THE CROSS:

(Name), receive the sign of the holy cross †, upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION:

Now receive the Good News of our Lord: As people brought children to Jesus that He might touch them, the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this He was extremely angry. He said: Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth; unless you receive the Kingdom of God like a little child you shall never enter it.

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Let us ask the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ on (Name) and pray together the prayer He has taught us:

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PUBLIC CONFESSION OF THE FAITH:

I ask you now to publicly speak your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

Yes, I do renounce them.

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord?

Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Yes, I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the + life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISM:

(Name), I baptize you in the name of the Father † and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit †. Amen.

May God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has given you the new birth by water and the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His Spirit, so that you receive eternal life. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF CANDLE:

Receive this burning light. Live always by the Light of Christ and be ever watchful for His coming that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him to the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in His Kingdom, which has no end. Let your light so shine before others, that they see your good works and glorify Your Father Who is in Heaven.

PRAYER:

Heavenly Father, we join with (Name's) parents in thanking you for giving them this child and for adopting him/her as Your own child in holy baptism. Strengthen him/her faith by Your Holy Spirit, so that his/her sinful self may die each day and he/she may rise to new life with Christ forever. As You have written his/her name in the book of life and have made him/her a member of the body of Your Son, guide him/her, so that, with all Your saints, he/she may one day abide in Your Heavenly Home; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRESENTATION OF BAPTIZED:

Through Baptism, God has added this new brother/sister a member of the Priesthood we all share in Christ Jesus, that we may proclaim the praise of God and show forth His creative and redeeming Word to all the world:

We welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as fellow members of the body of Christ, children of the same Heavenly Father, and workers with us in His Kingdom.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAISE HYMN:

"Lord I Lift Your Name"

(Rick Founds © 1989 Maranatha)

**Lord, I lift Your name on high
Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us**

**You came from Heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord, I lift Your name on high**

SCRIPTURE

The Old Testament: *1 Kings 19:4-8*

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers." And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. And the angel of the LORD came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Epistle: *Ephesians 4:17--5:2*

[St. Paul writes:] Now this I say and testify in the Lord, that you must no longer walk as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, due to their hardness of heart. They have become callous and have given themselves up to sensuality, greedy to practice every kind of impurity. But that is not the way you learned Christ! — assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus, to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another.) Be angry and do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need. Let no corrupting talk come out of your

mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse:

"O Living Bread

[Tune—The Church's One Foundation]

**O Living Bread from heaven,
How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing!
O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
in thankful song o'erflows!**

Johann Rist, public domain

The Holy Gospel: *St. John 6: 35-51*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 16th chapter:

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me— not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON SONG: "Blessed Jesus, living Bread" [Holy Spirit, Light Divine Tune]

**Blessed Jesus, living Bread, By Yourself our souls are fed;
Give us all the eyes to see, all that You were sent to be.**

**Word of God by which we live: Flowing from Your boundless store;
At Your table every guest, sees Your mercy manifest.**

**We are in that crowd You fed With Your blest, abundant Bread.
Moved by ev'ry human care, Bless the Bread we eat and share.**

Text: Unknown; 3rd Century Latin text.

Tune: Orlando Gibbons, 1583-1625; SONG 13 77 77 (LSB 496 Holy Spirit, Light Divine)

MESSAGE

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS:

Our Lord Jesus says in St. Matthew's Gospel: so, when you are offering your gift at the altar,
and if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you,
leave your gift there before the altar and go;

first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift.

Let us then be reconciled to God and to one another:

**Most Gracious Father, we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You
in our thoughts, words and deeds. We have committed sins against our neighbour and
against You, O Father. Have mercy upon us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins. Those
sins which are known to us, and those which are unknown. Give us Your Holy Spirit that
by faith we may be sorry for our sins, repent of them and serve You in newness of life to
the honour and glory of Your Holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins
in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH:

Heavenly Father: thank You for giving Your Son Jesus Christ as our life-giving Bread from Heaven.
Thank you for the amazing uniqueness of his identity as both true God and true man, and for his
matchless work of salvation. Ground your church firmly in this wonderful truth, preserve us from
falsehood and make us rely on Your Word and Sacraments for strength and hope. Hear us, O God:

Your mercy is great!

Guard our speech O Father, so that our words and actions may be helpful to others. Watch over the
public discourse of our nation, and keep our press, governments, and public institutions open and
honest. Bring success to our daily work, and keep our workplaces free from malice and hatred. Hear
us, O God: **Your mercy is great!**

Watch over the precious children of our church and grow them strong in health and faith. Preserve the
dignity of those increasing in years and those who administer to their needs. May families vacation in
peace, safety and joy, giving thanks to You for the gifts of recreation and leisure time. Bless all the
activities we undertake in your name here in our congregation, and give us joy in our life together. Hear
any cries for help or relief, especially those who are ill or dealing with stresses of body, mind or soul,
especially remembering before You.....May You remain the centre and source of their hope and trust.
Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great!**

Your dear Son came down as the Real Manna feeding us with a Food that will keep us satisfied, Who even gave up his life so that we might die to self and dwell in Him. Give us such close fellowship with him that in all doubts and dangers our faith may not fail. Hear us, O God: **Your mercy is great!**

Gracious God and Father, when the time was right and according to Your good pleasure you sent your Son as the world's Saviour. Continue to give life to the world through Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Bread of life from Heaven, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE SACRAMENT [SPOKEN]

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

It is truly good, right and joyful that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord: 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 the Church on earth and all the company of Heaven, we praise Your name and join their un-ending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

[Tune: "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God"]



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, Lord God Al - migh - ty,



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout glo-ries of Your name.



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho -- ly, sing -- ing Ho - san -- na!



Bles -- sed is He Who comes in our Lord's name.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always:

And also with you.

LAMB OF GOD

O Jes-us Chri-st, True Lamb of God; the sins of the world, You
Take a -- way. Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray;
And bless us with Your peace; A -- men

COMMUNION HYMN: *"What Wondrous Love Is This?"*

1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul?
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;

What won - drous love is this, O my soul?
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;

What won - drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I Am,

To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul, for my soul;
While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;

To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.

3. The ones who share My Feast, in My Name, in My Name,
The ones who share My Feast, in My Name;
The ones who share my Feast -- shall -- know their joy in-creased,
The reign of grace and peace - in My Name, in My Name,
The reign of grace and peace in My Name!

4. "What I have done for you in My Love, in My Love,
"What I have done for you in My Love;
What I have done for you – so – you are call-ed to do,
To be a ser-vant true, in your love, in your love,
To be a ser-vant true, in your love.

5. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free—I'll—sing His Love for me,
And through et-ern-ity, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through et-ern-ity, I'll sing on.

Words: *Spiritual Hymns from Lynchburg (Vs. 1-2 & 5); Marty Haugen © GIA Pub., 1987 (Vs. 3 & 4)*
Music: *Southern Harmony, New Haven, 1835 Public domain; www.hymnary.org*

SONG OF SIMEON:

"Let Your Servant Depart"

[tune: Sweet By & By]

**Let your servant depart now in peace,
For Your Word from of old is fulfilled,
Your salvation my eyes now have seen,
Long-prepared as it always has been.**

**In Your light, you reveal, the world's promise and Israel's great joy!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always may You be adored.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER:

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BENEDICTION:

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *"How Great Thou Art"*

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.**

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

**And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin. Refrain:**

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

**When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"**

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, My Saviour God, to Thee,
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REV. TODD HOEFFS
PENTECOST 11 (series B)
Scripture: St. John 6:35-51
Title: "Helping Our Hangry"
August 8, 2021

HANGRY – a fairly recent term – angry with a “h” – combination of the words hungry and angry. HANGRY. When your blood sugar gets low causing anger as hunger sets in. Then it’s time to eat. Like those Snicker’s candy bar TV commercials about people getting really irritated when they don’t eat: “you’re not yourself when you’re hungry...” HANGRY. Most people who are hungry are very thankful for getting food to eat. But there’s also a time, believe it or not, when I encountered people actually getting angry about food choices. Years ago I worked in a small grocery store. Each night if there were too many left over loaves of fresh bread the last customers of the night could take it home FREE. I always saw a select few get angry. They didn’t want the left over fresh loaves....they wanted the other bread, the wonder bread, the raisin bread, the loaves which lasted longer the more expensive bread. They got angry when they couldn’t have it. “No, I want THAT Bread for FREE?!” Talk about hangry!? Talk about spoiled and ungrateful. Sometimes getting something for nothing can bring out the nasty privileged side of people, revealing arrogance and feelings of conflict. Those men, women and children following Jesus around Want the freebies for the stomach not the filling the soul. Jesus says “HE IS THE BREAD OF LIFE.” He will feed with a satisfying kind of bread. A living bread. His own Flesh and Blood kind of bread. Go to Him. He makes sure no one hungers or thirsts any more! Now, how’s He gonna do that? Jesus is Mary’s Son. He learned Joseph’s carpentry trade early in His life, not bread making. Sure, He made a meal of bread and fish feed the crowd of over 5,000. How’s He gonna BE the BREAD OF LIFE, the Bread of OUR life, that He says we need!? Little did Mother Mary know that her son, born in Bethlehem, which means, HOUSE OF BREAD, would become the BREAD FOR ALL TO EAT. When Mary’s soul magnified the Lord she believed the low would rise up and the high & mighty would get knocked down. She trusted God would make things happen for the good of the whole world. He has. By sending down Jesus as our BREAD. The news of Bread causes conflict between Jesus and the crowd. It’s not so much about what Jesus has or hasn’t done but about the peoples’ understanding, their point of view, the religious box they’ve created for Jesus to fit into. We do that, you know. Create a box in our heads for how our Lord can fit in, how He’ll work and make things happen and keep us protected. We want to understand Him on our terms. Thinking about Jesus in this way is small, stifling & stunts our growth in Him. When you’re steeped in a religious culture which insulates you from the love of God And keeps you far removed by rules and behaviour and foods and rituals. Then it’s easy to see God as fitting into a mental box. I do this, He does that. Seems easy, but its empty and only distresses the people. Jesus is challenging the crowds to step outside of this established, comfortable, and familiar context created for them. He’s inviting them to live a new life, a larger life, a life that doesn’t just hang onto the

past but looks forward to this grace right in front of them! Anyone who refuses to see and understand Jesus' miracle separates the gift of bread from the Giver of Heavenly Bread. We're not so different from those people then. We too have our own ideas of how our Lord is supposed to work in our lives. We usually either try to contain Him in our personal control or we'll try and exclude Him. As if we don't need Him. It's not bad that we have our own understanding of Jesus. It's bad when its only about what we want and not what our Lord Jesus wants. Wanting what Jesus wants means we believe in Him. And no one comes to Him or believes in Him unless the Father draws him. As Luther's Small Catechism states. "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him." We can't come to the Lord on our own because we don't know how and we don't want to. We're sinners.

That means we turn inward when the going gets tough. We turn away from God going at it on our own to fix things. And this way breeds our own ungrateful privilege Which strips away the miracle of our Father in Heaven drawing us into Christ like a magnet with the Holy Spirit's work as our only help.

Jesus in the end of the day is our ONLY life-line for bread which lasts. As Jesus says, "this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise Him up on the Last Day." This is the first time Jesus speaks about resurrection in John's Gospel. His promise to you, and to all who believe, is that He will raise you up on the Last Day and give you eternal life. And this is as certain and sure as He is risen from the dead and lives and reigns forever.

When He first says this, He hasn't yet died on the cross. All He's done is given them lots of bread and fish. With a teaching that somehow HE is not THIS LIVING BREAD. This man is Bread!? Something Moses had done for forty years. Nothing new there. Yet everything new. Moses gave bread from heaven, the manna in the wilderness, and still the people died. Manna could sustain them but not save them. Prophet Elijah ate bread in the wilderness too, and it sustained him for forty days. But the bread that Jesus gives is not like the bread that fell from the sky for Moses or the bread that the angel brought Elijah. Jesus' Bread is HIS OWN SELF. "Jesus Christ, the Word of God The ancient tabernacle smoke The sacrifice in the temple This man before them IS the bread that came down from heaven." The baby laid in the manger by the Virgin Mary is the Bread Who feeds the lives of all Who believe in Him as their Saviour. Jesus satisfies the deepest of our hungers, the hunger for a right relationship with our God that we don't know we have. No food from earth can deliver that. Earthly meals offer bodily nutrients but it can't save your life. Only food of Heaven saves. Jesus is that food.

[When I started out early in the ministry I served in a church with doctors and nurses. I made up business cards titled "Pastor Todd, Soul Doctor" – regular doctors may save your life, I can save your SOUL – Meant to create more humor and less arrogance?!!!] So many things prevent human eyes from seeing Jesus as the bread of life. Our patterns of thinking, believing, the way we see the world, each other, or ourselves convince us there's no other bread and we should just settle for the same old manna our ancestors ate in the wilderness.

We're used to having less. We rely on old ways even if they don't work because they feel good. Most of the time we deceive ourselves into believing that we're Ok, we're not even hungry or thirsty. We're just fine. Jesus convinces us we have a hunger and a thirst and gives us what we need to be filled – His very own wonderful self. Jesus tells us we must stop craving only earthly bread and instead treasure Him as the Bread which fills us with peace and comfort and hope. This Bread is His Holy Communion Feast. In fact when John wrote this Gospel he wanted to make sure everyone knew and believed that Jesus gives His real Flesh and Blood to eat and drink in the Bread and Wine. And all who eat and drink of Him have eternal life and will be raised up to new life on the last day. Simple Bread and Wine carry the Lord to you. Just as simple water carries the Lord to you in Baptism, along with faith and forgiveness. Our God always comes in ordinary ways. He comes through a young Virgin mother so that only faith can answer who His Father is.

So that when people wonder Who HE thinks HE is being the carpenters' son, believers will see how God creates awesome things out of humble and simple ways. No more humble, simple yet horrific Than when the Flesh and Blood of our Living Bread Is baked in the heat of the sun and our hellish sins On the cross, nailed, bleeding, suffering, poured out like water. The living Lord dies which makes our rebelliousness die. The dead Lord lives and makes it possible for each and every one of us to live, too. Because...if Jesus comes in the humble things, like in a manger, on a cross, from an empty tomb, He won't just swoop in like Superman for a flashy, easy rescue. We may have to live in our situation for a while. We may have to suffer some...or suffer a lot. We may feel the roughness of Jesus' cross before we enjoy its new living fresh, soothing promise. That we belong to Him and He never leaves us but will have never-ending life with Him. And in this life we may have to change, die to self, rise up a new person, learn something new, be different, transform, renew!

Jesus' table is set and there's always a place for you here. The living bread comes down from heaven and feeds you. With the words "take, eat, this is My Body; take, drink, this is My Blood", Jesus extends His own hand out to you, giving you fully of Himself. Eat this bread, drink from this cup, and He will raise you on the Last Day. And because He lives and dwells in your body, you're safe and secure. He won't deny any of you the gift of new life in Heaven. Where He is, you are. When you go, He goes. You carry the promise of peace and hope. You take the Bread of Life out to the concerns of your world where you're called upon to help feed and nourish others. With Jesus' feeding you and you feeding others, HANGRY gives way to happy and frustration gives way to forgiveness.

The Son of Mary is our Bread Which feeds a holy hunger.

Amen.