

Worship Plan for Sunday, June 18, 2017

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

Today is the first of seven Sundays where we will Countdown LCR's 7 Favorite Bible Stories. Today Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Gracious God,

you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

READING: John 6:1-14

The reading may be announced:

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself

knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Gathered by the Holy Spirit and fed by the word, we come together as the people of God to pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God our provider, awaken hunger for your truth in the church around the world so all are fed with your love and mercy.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give rain to the fields that supply our bread, and care for those who tend the crops.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Raise up leaders who love truth and seek justice. Prosper the work of those who supply and oversee feeding programs in our community and around the world.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who fear that they will not be able to feed their children. Send them healthy food and surround them with people who care. With your Spirit, strengthen those who are unsatisfied, lonely, rejected, or ill (especially).

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Strengthen this congregation in its service to food pantries and community meal programs. Open our eyes to your abundance when we see only scarcity.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With all the saints, root and ground us in love until we know the breadth, length, height, and depth of fullness in your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

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