



August 4, 2020

Blessings to you all in Christ's name! We are blessed at Holy Cross Lutheran church to follow God's leading to help others. This week, we are asking for your help as we gather school Supplies for Washington School!

What's that you say? School is in transition? We don't know how things will happen this fall at our local schools? There are plans for beginning with at Home learning (virtual tethering to schools, but keeping kids safe at home). Why do they need school supplies?

Well, every child will still need school supplies, as they continue the practices that serve them well at home. And, once the kids are allowed back on campus the need for school supplies will be intense.

So, Let's get those supplies now, and bring them into Holy Cross so we can distribute them to Washington School as soon as we are allowed. Bring your supplies by the church during office hours, or on Sunday, at 10 am this week August 9th for our Outdoor/Patio Worship Service. See you there.

Coming to outdoor worship? **DON'T FORGET THESE IMPORTANT THINGS – Service is at 10 am. We are outdoors, so please bring a folding chair. Please bring your bread and wine or grape juice as we partake of Holy Communion together, safely. AND bring a hat or umbrella for the sun! We will also collect school supplies (see the back of this letter) and Noisy Offering (coins for kids).**

Also, please RSVP to Janet at 503 364-6041 to tell us you're coming so we can make good plans. Remember, All of what we are doing outside this summer is helping us to plan and modify our worship experience to conform to Guidelines as we move indoors most probably to the Fellowship Hall/Gym at first. Be well, and take care,
Pastor Patricia+



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!

We don't know when schools will reopen, or what it will look like. Will we be in the classrooms? Or online? Or a hybrid version? In any scenario, the kids at Washington Elementary need supplies. Here's a list of what's needed. Supplies can be dropped off at the church on Tues-Wed-Thurs from 9am to 1pm, or you can bring them to the Outdoor Worship service on August 9th & 23rd, and on Sept 6th.

- Backpack
- Pencil case
- 24 count colored Crayola pencils
- 24 count colored markers
- 24 count Crayola crayons
- 3 boxes (1 dz. each) #2 Ticonderoga pencils
- Pkg of fine tip black Expo dry erase markers
- Primary composition notebook
- Wide rule composition notebook
- Red ink pens
- Large boxes of Kleenex
- Pkg of wide ruled notebook paper
- Pkg of Huggies unscented wipes
- Earbud headphones
- Ream of copy paper

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar Sermon for August 2, 2020 The Feeding of the ... er...

5,000? My name is Bishop Laurie Larson Caesar and it's an honor to be here with you. I am so honored to be your bishop and be walking together with you as a synod - syn means "together" after all, and odos means "road," so we are on the road together. We are about a hundred and fifteen congregations and specialized ministries - campus ministries, new mission starts, hospice chaplaincies and many other places - federal prisons... We come together as people who are called to walk the way of Jesus in these challenging times. I wish I could be with you in person and I miss you. I find my heart and my body and my brain is missing being out among you, but it's so good at least we can connect this way. Thanks for joining, thanks for remaining connected to your church or specialized ministry. We need to show up now more than ever. This world needs love, one for another.

A person I loved died last month. He was tall and lean and older. He wore a sort of glasses from the 50's, had a huge heart, and a kind face. Christopher was a priest in the Catholic church. He was a pastor and a prophet and kind of a mystic. When he told me that he prayed for me, I believed him. He was one of those priests who yearned for more ecumenical connection, for women in the priesthood, who honored the voices of children and took them seriously. He was delightful. He would often, if we were ever in a context like Holden Village, wax on and on about the beauty of Spirit of Grace where I served, this Lutheran and Catholic faith community united in worship and life. He knew that when we cross bridges and learn about each other, we learn more about ourselves and the beauty of our tradition. In his unique way he was a model for me. The letters in the New Testament talk about "encouragement" as a gift of the Spirit. He showed me that. If he were around and I ever had doubts about whether to be brave for the sake of love or whether I could do something challenging he would say, "Pastor Laurie, you can do it - you can do almost anything with the God has called you and inspires you." I don't know if you have had any people like that in your lives, people who in all their glorious imperfections - maybe they wear outdated glasses or sported funny mustaches or bore wrinkled smiles - but if you have anyone like that, say their name out loud now. Maybe they helped you have confidence in a key moment in your life when you proposed to a partner or applied for a job or a school or needed confidence speaking out in the public square. They are not to be taken for granted - people who help us find our voice and our courage; they are gift and they are miracle of God. I think of people like Rose, Elton, Sylvia and Ove, and Herb, Joseph. I'm convinced the older I get the God of grace and liberation and absolute encouragement comes to us most often, or has come to me anyway, in the flesh of other people. I am also convinced that I've missed that gospel, missed paying attention, ten thousand times.

We buried Christopher in a graveyard in Mount Angel with prayers of gratitude to the God who made him. Now, when encouragement is needed more than ever, now as we are enduring social isolation in unprecedented ways, and having some racial reckonings - examining the ways that white supremacy and genocide have been apart of this country that we love - we are invited to examine the ways we to have borne privilege when we didn't even see it and didn't even know it. When we are isolated and alone it's tremendously easy to give into anxiety and depression. Listen to the encouragers in your life right now. I want to talk about this text in Matthew because though it wouldn't be my choice to preach on, (I think we've all heard the feeding of the 5000 numerous times and think we know what's going on) I want to talk about how there's encouragement going on in this story, and how

we might hear it anew. First, in this chunk of text we are told that there were five thousand men. I do not know what was in the author's imagination, but don't we need to ask - how many women and children were there, unseen and uncounted? Not important? At the edges? Why don't we call it the Feeding of the 15,000? And does that have anything to do with people who are speaking out now, downtown, saying they are not seen or counted? Asking us to see that those who are called to "protect and serve" don't treat "my body exactly the same way as they treat your body? My body isn't seen as important as your white body? Please, listen to me. Your experience has been centered." I wouldn't be your bishop if we hadn't had people throughout the generations saying "Women count." 50 years ago we ordained our first women in the Lutheran church. Thanks be to God. Now in our culture we are at another moment. Will we listen? Let's get past the "title" and look at the text. In the first sentence we're told that after "Jesus had heard this"... The story isn't in the text but just before. He'd heard about the beheading of his friend and cousin John the Baptist at a banquet in Herod's palace. A sumptuous banquet full of dancing, fine wines, "power over" and a head on a plate. Then for Matthew, immediately what follows is a meal of abundance and inclusion and simplicity and care and equality with the 5000... It is like a "black mass" is followed by an all-comers BBQ. Hmmm. Contrast! Which one better reflects the kingdom of God I wonder? Jesus is likely grieving, probably fearful himself. Wants to be alone.

But somehow the people who have seen the transforming power of his being, his words, his presence, his God keep following and so when he arrives on the shore there are many. Many. This is the only miracle story that makes all four Gospels. In other words, it's important! How to unpack. Sometimes, when I'm examining a text, I look at the verbs because the verbs can reveal things at the heart. What are the verbs at the end of the story? Once there is bread enough for all, Jesus "takes" it gently and "gives thanks", he "blesses", "sees the beauty", he acknowledges that all is gift of God For the bread to be eaten it needs to be "broken" and then we are told it is "given." Remind you of anything? This story at the center of all four gospels? I wonder in what ways those four verbs might reveal a model for our lives as well as our worship? Take. Bless. Break. Give. Will we allow our God to take us in the same way bread is taken and broken and given for the life of the world? So we've been taken and we've been broken. When I was twenty, I thought I was going to be a doctor because that's what you do when you are from a small town and you are good at science. People there wanted me to "succeed." They loved me. But, God had other plans. All that was cracked open for me when I was pursuing the dream. 22. A whisper and a call toward something I could love. All this invites me to ask now: What else is God yearning to crack open in me - privileges unseen, forgiveness unoffered, greed, ego, fear? Am I ready? And collectively, what is God trying to crack open in our church, how have we been blind, have we been complicit in horrors, how have we allowed our texts to be used to marginalize people who are meant to be sitting with everyone else feasting in an economy of grace and abundance? Are we willing to be bold and brave for the sake of that kind of cracking open? Easier said than done. A friend of mine once mused, thinking of the church, "What if the empty tomb is also a womb?" A cracking open to new life, out of death and fear and confinement? We are capable, people of God, of things that we cannot dare dream or imagine. We are called to listen and follow. The Christian Way simple sounds simple, and it's also terrifying. Listen. Love. Open. Change. Like in my friend Christopher. Notice the way, in the hands of the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus invites others in, to participate in the miracle. It's an invitation but we can ignore it. Jesus asks the disciples to

feed the crowd. Ahhh! They say. What? Send them into the villages, that's where the bread is! But Jesus looks of the disciples, he's like, you all can do this. It is like my friend Christopher: "you're capable are more than you dare dream or imagine." They do not like it or get it. Send the people into the regular economy, that transactional thing where money changes hands, the villages. Jesus says "No, we have abundance here." And what's the true miracle? I love the commentary which asks - Which is the bigger miracle, Jesus Son of God multiplying loaves and fishes, or people living subsistence lives, always on the edge of hunger and even starvation, taking their hidden piece of bread or fish and sharing with everyone around them, so generously that whether you brought anything or not you eat until you cannot eat anymore. Until there are twelve baskets left over? I'm not sure how it happened there on the shores of the Sea of Galilee, or what literally transpired, but both are miraculous.

When we share, God's spirit is doing something in us because it goes against every grain of self-preservation and fear and anxiety in us. Something holy and transformational. Precisely at the heart of the story is this - we are called to live generously, to see the buds of possibility and Holy Spirit and strength and courage in others, so that we change, and become encouraged to become part of God's economy of grace. There where we see abundance and possibility in the other. There we are capable of admitting our little vision needs to be cracked open, our church needs to be cracked open, and our culture needs to be cracked open. Are we willing to walk into the unknown, with courage and grace and generosity enough to see abundance all around us and to name the ways we've been paralyzed by our own fear and blindness? Are we brave and bold enough to break open the bread of our lives - break open what we love so much that it can be shared? To name hard truths, to and risk the beheading John the Baptist got when he spoke truth to power? My dad used to say "I'm comfortable with Jesus being my savior, but am I comfortable Jesus being my Lord? Am I willing to go where he went, let HIM be my leader, risking everything to speak love into a world which prefers to marginalize and manage and monetize?"

I was in a circle this week on Zoom where I heard from a young man who was kicked out of his home for being a member of the LGBTQ community. One person saw Spirit and potential in him. One Professor who said, "You are made in the image of God," and took him into her home, and invited him to be a part of her family and TA in her classes and LIVE. Thus began his amazing unfolding flourishing. THIS is the way we're called to be - this is the way we're called to act. I wish I knew her name because I would say her name. She's a model of this. She has been taken, blessed, broken open, and given for the life of the world and in that love and support and kindness, she is enabling this young person to also walk that fourfold path of Christ. Let's not forget that scripture tells us that "what humans see as impossible, with God, possible. With God all things are possible." Let's write it on our hearts and live it in our bones. Let's remember that we are beloved and called with courage to tell others they are as well. Let's weave a wild web of relationship grounded in God's grace so that we can act one with another and build the Beloved Community. Let's dare be taken and blessed and broken and given. Go in peace, my friends!

Praying together at Holy Cross – August 9, 2020

This summer, we are ‘searching for significance’ in this life of faith. When the world is full of change, we could choose to ‘lay low’ and wait for things to blow over. Or we could search for our own significance as the Body of Christ. We pray, Lord, for your help and guidance as we journey together toward that goal.



Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for those in leadership in our country, our state and our cities. May God sustain them and continue to point them to compassionate, quick and well-informed response.

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for peace and kindness in all the nations. Teach us each to make decisions that better all humankind. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for calm and reason as people work together, towards a vaccine. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for family and friends, as we desire health and wholeness in all the world. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for those who seek meaningful worship – that we find new ways of being church. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

For this and all those matters, circumstances and individuals whose needs are brought to mind at this time. *(specific people are mentioned here)*

Lord, in your mercy Hear Our Prayer

We pray for Holy Cross leadership as they imagine new ways of being of service in your community, Lord. Thank you, Lord, for loving us. It is what makes all the difference. Amen.

WORSHIPPING AT HOME WITH HOLY CROSS
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020 – TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
whose steadfast love is everlasting,
whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

Amen.

Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Reconciling God,

**we confess that we do not trust your abundance,
and we deny your presence in our lives.**

**We place our hope in ourselves
and rely on our own efforts.**

We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.

We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.

**We fear difference and do not welcome others
as you have welcomed us.**

We sin in thought, word, and deed.

By your grace, forgive us;

through your love, renew us;

and in your Spirit, lead us;

so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen.

Beloved of God,

by the radical abundance of divine mercy

we have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,

through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.

Our sins are forgiven.

Let us live now in hope.

For hope does not disappoint,

because God's love has been poured into our hearts

through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN – Eternal Father, Strong to Save ELW 756

- 1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

2 O Savior, whose almighty word
the winds and waves submissive heard,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid the storm didst sleep:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

3 O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bid its angry tumult cease,
and give, for wild confusion, peace:
oh, hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

READINGS AND PSALM

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Joseph sold by his brothers

Psalms 85:8-13

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

Romans 10:5-15

Hearing and confessing the word of faith

Matthew 14:22-33

Jesus walking on the sea

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (see attached prayers)

OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours,
and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
that we might proclaim your steadfast love
in our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The people of our congregation were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As you worship in your homes, we remember the gift of communion that we share.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life, whoever comes to me shall never hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

At this time, you may remember the gift of holy communion with your own bread and cup.

Communion Blessing The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen**

COMMUNION BLESSING

God of the welcome table,

in this meal we have feasted on your goodness
and have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
so that we may share your neighborly love with all,
through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

BLESSING

**LIFE IS SHORT
AND WE DO NOT HAVE
MUCH TIME TO
GLADDEN
THE HEARTS
OF THOSE WHO
TRAVEL WITH US
SO BE SWIFT TO LOVE
MAKE HASTE TO BE KIND
AND GO IN PEACE
TO LOVE AND SERVE
THE LORD**

ALBERT FREDERIC AMIEL