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Worship
July 25, 2021

GATHERING

GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Call to Worship

Pastor: Come, People of God, and let us worship Jesus the Christ.

Reader: Let us worship the eternal God, the Source of love and life, who created us. Let us worship Jesus the Christ, the risen one who lives among us. Let us worship the Spirit, the Holy Fire, who renews us. Let us worship the one true God who is to be praised in all times and places.

Opening Hymn – “Table of Plenty”

Greeting

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P May the risen Christ fill us with life, light, and hope.

*C Thanks be to God. The Spirit teaches us, inspires us, and give us the voice of the Gospel.
Amen.*

Hymn of Praise – “The Lord Has Done Great Things”

THE WORD

First Reading

2 kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat.’ But his servant said, ‘How can I set this before a hundred people?’ So he repeated, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, “They shall eat and have some left.” ’ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reader: Here what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response – *“We Are Led By the Hand of God”*

Gospel Reading

John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’ Jesus 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. Then 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. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ So, they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When 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.’

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, 'It is I; do not be afraid.' Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - "All Who Hunger"

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God has established the Church, and will preserve and protect it, and will provide us with a foretaste of our greatest hope.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church and died and rose again in His resurrection, to give eternal life through our baptism into Christ.

We believe that the Holy Spirit breathed fire and life into the Church at Pentecost and still provides power for its preservation and ministry.

We believe the Church is the community of disciples, using their gifts freely and wisely for the common good of the body and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ until He comes again. Amen.

Prayers of the People

P. As we are rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the Church, the World, and all of Creation.

(A Brief Silence)

P. In these days of conflict and lack of trust among peoples, we pray for the people of Israel and Gaza, that their leaders will find peace and hope, so that their people may live without fear once more. Indeed, Lord, we pray for all peoples who are enduring conflict that soon peace will come. Hear us O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. Lord, you draw near to these who cry out for help. Enable us to be your hands that feed the hungry; to those who are in darkness and are looking for hope; let us be your arms to those who are mourning the death of loved ones; let us be your comfort to those who are ill of body mind or spirit, and enable us to bring your light and your hope who are searching for light and hope in their lives. Be especially with those for whom we pray on our prayer list, and those for whom we pray in this moment of silence.....Hear us O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. On this day Lord, we would pray for all those who serve our town and cities to keep us safe, and pray for their safety this day. We pray for those who serve us in far off places, that they will be able to return to their loved ones soon.

C. Your mercy is great.

P. Lord we here at Bethany would ask that your Spirit guide the search for a new pastor for your people here. Bless our Call Committee with the spirit of discernment as they examine those who believe that God is calling to a new congregation in Scottsdale, AZ Hear us O God.

P. We lift these and all of our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Offering - "Dwelling Place"

Erin

Offertory - "Make Me a Servant"

Prayer of Blessing

P Let us pray:

C. Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the gifts entrusted to our care. Direct us according to your will O God. Amen.

MEAL

A Brief Confession

P. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sins and hear again, Christ's words of forgiveness.

A brief silence

C. Too often Lord, we question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn instead to our own understanding rather than trusting in You. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again Lord, to you. Where else can we turn? Enable us Lord to help to hear your words for us and to enable us to be light and life for our world. Lord we confess that we have not always lived up to the covenant that you have made with us, and we ask for your forgiveness. Amen.

P. Beloved People of God, through Jesus the bread of life, the light of the World, you are forgiven all of your sins, and you are loved into the life with Christ.

All: Amen.

P. The love of Christ has gathered us as one, to remember Christ, the Son of God, who loved his own until the end.

C. In His great, unselfish love, the Lord who calmed the storms and turned water into wine, stooped to a servant's duty and washed his disciples' feet.

P. When we are gathered here, let us be drawn together by His passion. Let no love be less than His.

C. Let us follow Christ's example and serve one another as He first served us. For by this, the world will know that we are Christ's followers, if we love one another.

P. On the night He was betrayed....

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Communion Invitation

P: Come to God's table; be fed and satisfied.

C: We come to feed our spirit and be in the presence of God.

Communion Music - "The Feast Meant for Everyone"

Erin/Kristan

Communion Blessing

P. Let us pray:

C. Jesus, Bread of Life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

Benediction

Pastor: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every good blessing. Amen.

Closing Hymn – “Ever We Praise You”

Dismissal

Paster: Go in Peace...to live and serve in the way of the cross.

Response: Thanks be to God.