

**NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Miraculous and Simple**  
**August 2, 2020**

Miracles tend to be big things in our minds. But the miracles Jesus does are more often tied to the simple things of ordinary life—like food! Jesus provides the simple things of life in miraculous ways. That is one of the things the five thousand learned when Jesus took a light lunch and fed thousands. It also confronts us here in simple water that becomes the means to new and everlasting life, or in simple bread and wine that feeds us the flesh and blood of Christ, or in efficacious words that accomplish what they say. But this is also true in our daily lives, as our Good Shepherd supplies all our needs of body and soul.

**“When Peace, like a River” [LSB 763]**

1 When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;  
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,  
Let this blest assurance control,  
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate  
And hath shed his own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

3 He lives—Oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,  
Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

4 And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;  
Even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

**Prayer**

O blessed Lord, You are hidden in things simple and ordinary, but Your grace is never anything less than miraculous. Grant to us grace that we recognize Your hand of blessing supplying us all that we need for this body and life and for our eternal salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and teach us to receive them with gratitude and peace in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 55:1–5***

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. <sup>4</sup> Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. <sup>5</sup> Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

### **HOLY GOSPEL** *Matthew 14:13–21*

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup> Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup> But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup> They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” <sup>18</sup> And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

God is amazing. “For He makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matthew 5:45) God provides for those who do not even seek Him or thank Him. The Father sent His Son to die on the cross to pay for the sins of everyone including those who work against Him. Not everyone who came to Jesus the day of the feeding of the five thousand came because they were there seeking forgiveness and salvation yet Jesus fed all of them. Jesus shows his care and concern not just in the big things but also in the little things. He is with us in our day to day lives as well as leading us to eternity in heaven. There are no limits to God’s love. We are the ones who limit God’s love. God treats everyone equally, but do we? Peter’s words are important here. “And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Acts 2:21) The Holy Spirit and the Word of God is available to all. The gift of faith in Jesus Christ to receive forgiveness and eternal life is available to all. The disciples might have sent the people away but Jesus did not. He fed them all. “All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.” (John 6:37)

### **LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.