



August 2, 2020
Communion Sunday – Worship Packet

And those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. **Isaiah 35:10**

ORGAN PRELUDE

- **Im Abendrot** **Schubert**
 - <https://youtu.be/JqUD5PHuWiY>
- **En Drom** **Grieg**
 - <https://youtu.be/c0eMKhgtF-4>
- **Prayer** **Adams**
 - <https://youtu.be/NwhCUEaJKXY>
- **Somebody's Knockin' at Your Door**
 - <https://youtu.be/AlAbETinMNE>
- **Ride On, King Jesus** **Johnson**
 - <https://youtu.be/FX7QuTC-qd8>

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: All who hunger- gather gladly.

Many: We come to feast on the life-giving Word.

One: Here, love abounds and grace overflows.

Many: Here, blessings multiply as gifts are shared.

One: Come- let us pour ourselves out in prayer and praise,

All: and open ourselves to renewal and rest.

OPENING HYMN Fight the Good Fight

<https://youtu.be/Bgl4SoI-5sk>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of abundance, in your hands meager offerings become bread to feed a multitude. Your mercy overflows to fill deserted landscapes with hope and grace. In you there is always more than enough. But we see only scarcity: too few resources to share with our neighbors, too little energy to respond to those in need. We turn from those who suffer rather than offering compassion and care. Transform us, we pray. Open our hands to share freely and generously and stretch our hearts to new expressions of love.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

Proclaim the greatness of our Lord because His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. God listens to a contrite heart and humble spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

AN ACT OF PRAISE

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end,

Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Providing God, by your Holy Spirit feed us with your Word, that we might be filled with the bread of life. Amen.

PSALTER

Psalm 145:8-9,14-21

One: The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Many: **The LORD is good to all, and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

One: The LORD upholds all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.

Many: **The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season.**

One: You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.

Many: **The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings.**

One: The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

Many: **He fulfills the desire of all who fear him, he also hears their cry, and saves them.**

One: The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.

All: **My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD, and all flesh will bless his holy name forever and ever.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.’ Jesus said to them, ‘They need not go away; you give them something to eat.’ They replied, ‘We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.’ And he said, ‘Bring them here to me.’ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

MEDITATION

Elder Janice Haer

A Desolation Shore

Alone
with His thoughts...
the lapping of water against His boat
His only companion...
perhaps Jesus was
thinking. reflecting. remembering.
the life of the man the world knew as
John the Baptist;
He knew simply as John, His cousin...
the very man come to
announce proclaim prepare
the world for the ministry and mission of Jesus

as foretold from of old.

Expecting to be alone
upon reaching the shore
in a place for rest restoration refuge...
moments of time gathered in one place
to contemplate the recent beheading of John...
Jesus sailed closer and closer
to the shore of His expected desolation solitude,
but the solace He was seeking there...
was not what welcomed His arrival.

Waiting there
on that shore of desolation...
having heard of His many previous miracles of healing
and anticipating one of their own...
thousands upon thousands had come
seeking solace from their
many diseases and illnesses of body, mind, soul.
When Jesus saw the thousands awaiting His coming
He was moved by pity and compassion and...
He did not send them away.

Instead that day on a desolation shore...
in sermons and parables without words...
Jesus spoke the most powerful words of all.
Love.
Love that touched. healed. cured.
all who had come
with their hopeful anticipation
of procuring and claiming His loving healing miracles.

Nearing evening on that healing day
the disciples came to Jesus and advised Him.
The hour is late. Send these people away for something to eat.
But Jesus simply responded,
“You find something for them to eat.
Only...do not send them away.”

Somewhere in that multitude

someone humbly offered up 5 tiny barley loaves...
and 2 fish.

Taking these from the disciples
Jesus offered up this gift, shared in love,
prayed, blessed, and broke the 5 small loaves...and
they multiplied and multiplied and multiplied
feeding thousand and thousands and thousands...
leaving 12 full baskets of uneaten leftovers.

Yet, all there that day were filled with spiritual and physical sustenance
and none went away hungry.

All because...

He did not send them away.

Should ever we stand
on our own shore of desolation
looking to the horizon for Jesus
to land and step forth from His boat...

once again

His love will

touch us. heal us. cure us. feed us to overflowing
like that long ago day of loving healing miracles because

He will not send us away.

He will not. Send us. Away.

Matt. 14:14-21

js. haer

07.28.2020

***SERMON HYMN** Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

https://youtu.be/_xgGBvnShsU

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven
and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,**

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

Making an offering isn't something asked by the church but by Christ Himself. Our offerings represent our faith, our willingness to humble ourselves to God's Providence and to thank the Lord for all that He has done in our lives. Your offerings help you just as they help the church. You may go online to www.crescentonline.org and click the Donate Now button or send your offering into the church office. May you be blessed as you seek to be a blessing.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Return, O God of Hosts Handel

- <https://youtu.be/NuvlIOI150g>

***DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Lynn Santulli

Health Issues:

Please let us know your requests for prayers. Please email Pastor Lynn at pastor@crescentonline.org or call the church office at 908.756.2468

Brian; Anthony; The Beaucasan Family; Leon Edwards; Cynthia; Elaine Duesbury; Frank; Drew Moore; Candyce Norris; Glenna Stevens; Terry; Janie Whiteford; Henry Ward, Jr.; Jay and daughter; Bob Newell; Kassi and Family; Juliet Fydrich; Michael R.; the Carlson family; Karen West; Lindsey Lofton; Brenda Hopper; Thomas West Jr.; Marlotte Troy Williams; Harvey Downing (Jeff's father); Tyleno Torres (health concerns) and for her mother facing surgery; the DeGeneste family (health concerns); Barbara & Craig Wensberg; Gloria Laube; Tom Logan (healing).

Homebound: Sonnia Cook.

Bereavement:

The Maltby family as they grieve the passing of Ron's sister Lucille.

World Issues:

Southern Cameroon (Ambazonia)

For all those on the front lines of fighting this virus, essential workers, those sheltering at home, those with loved ones battling the disease, those grieving loved ones who have passed. Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers.

CLOSING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

- <https://youtu.be/vXcgQL0SQ40>

BENEDICTION

May The Lord bless you and keep you, cause His holy face to shine upon and grant you the blessings of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

In Dir ist Freude

- <https://youtu.be/xqGBvnShsU>



*Flowers today are given by Pastor Lynn and George Santulli to the
glory of God.*

*One bouquet given to thank Joan Pivnichny for serving as in charge
while I was on vacation*

*One bouquet given to Ron Maltby in memory of his sister Lucille, who
passed away recently.*

From God all blessings flow and healing may be found.