

# RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

**First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church**  
Langham, SK

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
Radisson, SK

## NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 2, 2020

**St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham**  
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Ministers: Members of the Congregation

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**Greeting:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Prayer of the Day:**

**Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

*WORD*

**First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5**

Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

**Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21**

**Reflection - Pastor Melissa**

When I was going through the varied dramas and the deep feelings of young adulthood, I would call my mom looking for sympathy or guidance, and invariably her first response would be, "Have you eaten anything lately?" Usually I hadn't.

The world does seem a lot less awful on a full stomach.

Jesus shows that he understands the connection between our physical and spiritual hunger, and he satisfies both in today's gospel text. John the

Baptist's execution has shown the mortal danger for truth tellers. And so when Jesus retreats to a remote location, the crowds--around 10,000 of them--follow, looking for some satisfaction, some peace in this troubling time. And Jesus does not send them away, but instead provides what they need most, not just healing their illnesses and filling their bellies, but also sharing his loving and compassionate presence and revealing to them a glimpse of God's Kingdom.

An abundance of theories seek to explain how the disciples' lunch could provide sustenance for such a large crowd. One posits that Jesus' distributing the disciples' lunch among the people prompted everyone there to pass around any snacks that they had brought along too, until everyone was more than satisfied. The abundance was there all along--Jesus just helped the crowd see the miracle of God's blessings to share. Even if this theory is "out to lunch" (pun intended), Jesus does turn to the disciples in their perceived state of scarcity and insist, "You give them something to eat".

Those words are also directed at us as modern-day disciples. Though we may not always feel like we are working with an abundance, with God's blessing, the little we muster can work wonders. Whether we are offering our time or skills to build up our community, donating extra groceries to a food bank, or simply sharing the peace and joy we've found in relationship with Christ, those around us can be fed with what is already around and within us.

The world around us is hungry for healing and food and hope. You give them something to eat. Amen.

### **Prayers of Intercession:**

Confident of your care and helped by the Holy Spirit, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A Brief Silence*

You take resources that appear to be meager, bless them, and there is enough. May your church trust that what you bless and ask us to share with the world is abundantly sufficient. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Your bountiful creation offers sustenance and life for all creatures. Protect this abundance for the well-being of all. Reverse the damage we have caused your creation. Replenish ground water supplies, provide needed rains in places of drought, and protect forests from wildfires. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You offer yourself to all the nations and peoples of the earth, inviting everyone to abundant life. Bring the prophetic vision to fullness, that all nations will run to you and that nations who do not know you will find their joy in you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. Hear the anguish of tender hearts who cry to you in suffering and satisfy their deepest needs. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body, heart, and soul, and mind (especially...). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You offer freely the fullness of salvation. Give our congregation such a welcoming heart, that our words and actions may extend your free and abundant hospitality to all whom we encounter. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

You gather your saints as one, united in the body of Jesus. Bring us with all your saints to the heavenly banquet. We remember with love and thanksgiving the saints we have known. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

In the certain hope that nothing can separate us from your love, we offer these prayers to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing:** May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

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**Let us remember in our prayers:** Ida Muller at home, Sonia Zacharias, Darren Wilkie, Carla Wilkie, Connie Verishine, Susan Wonko, Gloria Hamp, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie, Lisa Hamp and to everyone affected by COVID 19

**Congratulations** to Amanda Waldner & Kendric Friesen who were united in marriage yesterday at First Sask. May God bless this couple in their new life together.

**Pastor Melissa's** worship video can be found at:  
<https://youtu.be/ct2u3f591MI>

**For other worship services/devotions** you could check out the following:

- Livestreams are available at:  
<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>
- Pastor Randy Fiege will not be live this Sunday but returns next week at 10:00a on Facebook, as well as YouTube.

**Dear Neighbours:**

When it comes to Sunday worship services in our churches, we need to accept that our 'old normal' will never return and our 'new normal' is still a long way from arriving. Our church councils are having conversations about how we might gather in some way (and relatively soon, too!) and are considering September 13 as a target date for re-starting regular Sunday services in our parish. As parish chair, on behalf of the two churches, I had a warm and encouraging conversation with Pastor Melissa a few days ago and she too is eager to have us reach something like a 'new normal' and we discussed how we will have to adjust how we serve and how we worship to ensure that we are all as safe as we can be. Also, in discussion with First Saskatchewan chair Eric, I know he expects that his council will meet within a couple of weeks and I have called the next meeting of the St. Paul council for Tuesday, September 8.

I will use this space each week from now until then to update our congregations. As of the end of July, there are some obvious uncertainties in

front of us. First, now that activities in our province have begun to open up, we are seeing a surprisingly dramatic increase in the number of cases of Covid-19, in Saskatchewan as well as elsewhere. Second, we are uncertain about school re-opening late next month: will this happen smoothly and with little impact on community spread of this disease, or will it make a difficult situation even worse.

Ever mindful, and with hope in our hearts and prayer on our lips, we will approach this challenge. We want to keep each other safe, so there are some things that will definitely be part of our future: please, please, please, get used to washing your hands often, wearing a mask, and staying home if you feel unwell. These three things are vital for all of us if we are to achieve a new normal, and will very much be part of our worship services whenever we do begin.

May God hold you in the palm of His hand this week. Peter K.

**Thank you** to those who stay connected and in touch with our members who may feel isolated and lonely, the elderly and others in our community by a phone call or sharing online worship services with those who do not have internet.

**The Sask Synod office is moving!** As of **August 13**, the Saskatchewan Synod Office will relocate to: #6 - 2220 Northridge Drive, Saskatoon, SK S7L 6X8. From the 13<sup>th</sup> until the 18<sup>th</sup>, the Synod office will be unreachable by phone, but they are able to receive emails. Expect some delays as they work their way through installations and new systems.

**Camp Kinasao** will be offering Day Camp: August 3-6 (Ages 5-13) and "QuaranTEEN" days: August 9 - Ages 14-16. For more information or to register for any of these camps, visit <http://www.kinasao.ca/camp-kinasao/2020-summer-programs>.

Sunday worship services are under way at 11:00a. Due to limited capacity, you are asked to preregister. To learn more about the guidelines that will be in place, to register, and to see the schedule of pastors, visit <http://www.kinasao.ca/welcome/sunday-worship>.

**Donations to your church** can still be given:

First Sask - You can mail your cheque to Roxanne Elke, P.O. Box 272, Grandora, SK S0K 1V0.  
St. Paul - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

**Happy Birthday this week:** Spencer Albus, Kelsey Usselman, Debbie Chappell, Bruce Flath, Faith Glennon, Carol Ross

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## FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:1-5

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

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 9:1-5

9 I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.<sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the

covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; <sup>5</sup> to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 14:13-21

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup> They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves 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. 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. <sup>20</sup> And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.