

Southwest California Synod Digital Worship
August 2, 2020 | 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to the digital worship of the Southwest California Synod. I am Pastor Deborah Andersen. I am the interim pastor at Our Savior's in Oxnard.

In today's first reading Paul addresses the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

In our gospel text, Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

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.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn | "Joyful Joyful" – lyrics on screen

First Reading: Romans 9:1-5

A reading from Romans.

¹I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The reading may be concluded:

Word of God, word of life.

The assembly responds:

Thanks be to God.

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], 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. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then 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. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Chat

Sermon

Hymn of the Day | "Be Thou My Vision" – lyrics on screen

Prayers of God's People

Confident of God's care and upheld by the Spirit, let us pray for all who are in need, responding to the words "Lord, you are good to all" with the phrase, "hear our cry and save us."

A brief silence.

O God our Savior, bless your church around the world. Where believers must be isolated from one another, be present through your gracious word. Give to our bishops, pastors, deacons and congregational leaders wisdom for their tasks in this challenging time.

A brief silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

O God, Redeemer of all, bless the Jewish people with your covenant promises. Bring an end to global anti-Semitism and strengthen ties of cooperation and friendship between Christians and Jews.

A brief silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

O God, Creator of a wondrous earth, protect the glories of your seas and lands. Replenish ground water supplies, refresh lakes and ponds, send rains where there is drought, and shelter forests from wildfires.

A brief silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

O God, Sovereign of the world, form the leaders of nations to strive for justice for all. Guide our government in dealing with China. Strengthen the world's democracies. Bring an end to racism in our society. Guide our elected officials in how to govern with integrity.

A brief silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

O God, Storehouse of goodness, visit all who face the coronavirus, especially those who are incarcerated. Give us, O Lord of life, a vaccine. Assist all who face eviction from their residence. Bring wholeness and healing to those who suffer in body or spirit, especially those whom we name before you:

A brief silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

O God, Giver of bread, teach us how to feed the hungry: the children starving in war zones, the families who cannot afford groceries, the homeless on our streets, the farmers devastated by pestilence. Give to all creatures their food in due season.

A brief silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

O God, Lover of our souls, receive now the petitions of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

O God, everlasting mercy, we praise you for the lives of all who have died in the faith, especially this week Dominic and all who, like him, preached your word with power. At the end, bring us with all your saints to your heavenly banquet.

A brief silence.

Lord, you are good to all:
hear our cry and save us.

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

Blessing

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ,
and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,
bless you and keep you in eternal love.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.