

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (2020)

Holy Spirit, Light Divine: Shine upon this heart of mine;
 Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day;
 Let me see my Savior's face; let me all His beauties trace;
 Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to Thee.
 Amen.

Matthew 14:13–21 Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], 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. *When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. 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.” But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”* They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” 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. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

In the Name of Jesus.

We’ve got Him right where we WANT Him!

My dearest brother Brad wrestled his boy to the ground; sat on his boy’s chest, wrists pinned to the ground. And that Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven dropped a pearl before...me.

With a smile that will comfort me in the lake of fire, that boy, pinned to the ground and helpless, smiled as I have never smiled. And then boasted to his dad, pinning him helpless: ‘Dad, NOW

I've got YOU right where I want you!'

Poor God. Poor Heaven. He can pin us down and have us helpless—and WE are more than conquerors! Look what we've done already, this morning!

From making the first Word over ourselves today the boast of a bit of water sprinkled on us one day—how long ago? At the hand of...? At the authority of...?

To then making BOLD to STEP...ON...THE...SCALE! No fear!

'I deserve nothing from heaven. Unless we're talking about this whole 'death' thing You warned us about from Day Six. Hunger and thirst and sickness...and then, what is WORST of all:'

'IN...OUR...NEED....what do the disciples have as a solution?'

'Well...THE hungry can fend for THEMSELVES!'

See! Y'all MUST see! I see it! So, it is OBVIOUS!

The DISCIPLES have Jesus RIGHT WHERE THEY WANT HIM! ALL He can do now, is what He'd been doing the whole day already: having compassion on THEM TOO; healing them, His star students. With...what a Word! 'No. Y'all. Y'all do it. Don't sell it. GIVE! Give; and they will eat.'

Oh! Not just EAT! Their...OUR little baskets cannot hold hardly nothin' of His bounty! From having so LITTLE to give, each of the Twelve Apostles—Peter too; Judas too—each has a BASKET of 'left-overs!' The STRUGGLE, that day—

THIS...DAY!—is NOT: ‘HOWWW...are we gonna make SO...LITTLE...STRETCH SO FARR?!’

He...is...Arisen...glorious Word!
Now reconciled is God, My Lord!
The gates of heav’n are open!

No. The gates are off their hinges!

The PROBLEM now...dear disciples of Jesus...is NOT ‘too little, for so much need;’ but ‘When THIS Authority starts giving....!’

The man to whom I owe my life and salvation—he introduced poor Laura to THIS MESS—he used to say, ‘You can’t have everything. Where would you PUT IT?!’

Today, Everything tells us!

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” ¹

Everything put everything that was GIVEN...TO...HIM...He put it in THEIR hands: now Eleven; believing, doubting; still, with EVERYTHING to learn about EVERYTHING: about Jesus. Oh! The Eleven had HIM right

¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 28:16–20). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

where they wanted Him!

Step...on...the...scale...my loved ones! Fear nothing. Not even fear!

With Everything...with the Son of God RIGHT THERE...

The people on whom HE had compassion were hungry...and....

The disciples missed...everything! ‘Jesus! WE are going to tell YOU what YOU need to DO! And how THEY have enough resources to provide for themselves!’

(How succinct a definition of all religion. And not just LUTHERAN religion! Even the messed up Christians and unbelievers play this sad game too: ‘God has given; what are YOU gonna give....ME?!’)

Step...on...the...scale!

See CLEARLY the One who has everything and is everything...And His Father and The Holy Spirit too!

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor’s headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him. ²

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Mt 27:27–31). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

And—praise the Lord!---it was all too much, for THIS Master of Everything. He needed help—YAY!—HE needed help, carrying His execution log to the End. Where’s His disciples? Praise...the...Lord! Just ANYONE can carry Jesus’ cross as well as His disciples! STEP...ON...THE...SCALE! Fear not!

³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross.³

Where’s the other Simon? The Rock?

⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you.” ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly. ⁴

⁴² “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’ ” ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way. ⁵

M...E...A...N...I...N...G: we’ve ALL got Him, right where He is wanted most.

Going on three decades now, I’ve been telling y’all how y’all’ve won the lottery times the lottery, ad infinitum! Almost thirty years now, the Sheep of the Good Shepherd here have had Heaven right where Heaven is needed most! What ELSE are you going to do with you poor, miserable pastor-sinner, than pray for

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 27:32). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 26:73–75). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Mt 27:42–44). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

his salvation morning, noon and night? What else can you do with ME, than pardon me, daily and much? And if you don't understand that, we need to hang out more. Or I can give you contact numbers for the important people in the Lutheran Church.

And I say to y'all, 'Right back ATCHA!' What else did the Blessed Holy Trinity cook up in your poor pastor, than someone to boast that all authority in heaven and earth has been given...to...ME?! And you don't need to worry about what some hidden GOD judges about you. I HAVE ABSOLVED YOU! And Heaven has nothing left to say about YOU...now that I have said about you: EVERYTHING!

Take and eat, the Body of Christ.

Take, drink: this is the true Blood of Christ that was shed for you.

Everything...again. Our baskets cannot hold it all.

I say things too rough. Forgive me.

But I've said before, from this pulpit, that I hate reading the Bible. About as much as I hate reading Luther. I do both, daily and much.

What bugs me about Luther and his Bible, is that I DREAM that I 'get' the Gospel; I can PLUMB the deep riches of God's mercy in Christ; I can CHEER the Church of God with the Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther.

And then the next morning comes; and I read; and my prayers heat up. 'HOW did I...miss...THAT?! How did I miss...EVERYTHING!'

Jesus commanded the people to sit on the grass; then looked—not at them, nor the loaves, nor the fish, but to heaven; and taught them, us, the world, again, where bread and fish come from; where HE comes from! Everything!

Oh! I don't know the first thing about the Gospel, about the Lord's Body and Blood, about our Baptism into Christ? Well then, I have God right where I want Him! All He can do is bear with me again.

You and I know so little about ruling with such a King. The terrible thoughts we have about our Jesus-given rulers; what words of blasphemy do we speak about such heavenly beings; oh, what do we deserve?

We've got the Spirit of Jesus right where He can do the greatest works. Oh, give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

In other words—yes, yes!—school HEAVEN in the many and various ways Y'ALL can pardon others, intercede for them, write off their debt to YOU, precious YOU!

But, my dear ones: don't get TOO Jesus-y. Don't get TOO religious.

If you don't blaspheme SOME of our rulers; if you don't REFUSE to forgive, and thus REFUSE to teach your God how to forgive YOUR trespasses...

Then how are you gonna get Him right where you need Him most? Having everything...yet still...DEPSEERATELY...HUNGRILY... desiring....US?!

When your sarcastic pastor tells you to pencil in at least one time this week to be REALLY sinful—listen to talk radio, talk TV, read that filthy Advocate once a year or so!—

Pray for your poor pastor and pardon him; and, then...LISTEN TO ME!

What I'm tell you, is to diet, exercise, and STILL step on the scale!

Do...GOOD! And STILL check out your MOTIVATIONS, your ANGLE, your AGENDA!

Oh! YOU give the hungry of the world something to eat! And then, see who is MORE SATISFIED! Those now fed? Or YOU, the great FEEDER?! The Kingdom of heaven has NO PLACE for those who are ALREADY SUFFICIENT!

Throw your whole self into being good; Simon Peter is a good example. Just, don't forget his denials, his tears.

And don't forget His Teacher, His Master, His Friend.

And if it seems that you need to learn the Gospel all over, daily and much; and if pure good works are few and far between; and when you WANT to look INSIDE and find comfort, but find NONE: You...have...everything; your basket is overflowing; you have the Kingdom of Heaven right where you want It: in the Name of Jesus.