



Church At Home
St. Timothy's Lutheran Church – Pembroke, Ontario
Pentecost 10 **August 2, 2026**

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. Amen.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you O Lord.

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.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you O Christ.

Homily – Rev. Jim Goos

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer. Amen

I appreciate the disciples' concern for the crowd. They are in a deserted place and it is evening. The crowd needs to be dismissed so that they can buy some food on their way home.

I can only imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus responded, "They don't need to leave; you feed them." So they give an honest answer: "we only have 5 loaves and 2 fish." It would be embarrassing to offer that to such a crowd.

The disciples admit that they can't feed such a crowd. Jesus takes their meagre offering, offers it up to His Heavenly Father, and blesses it. Our Reading doesn't say it, but it is possible that Jesus recited a benediction that Jews have used for centuries: Jesus would have said it in Aramaic or Hebrew, but the English translation is, "Praise be to You, *Adonai* our God, King of the universe, who brings forth bread from the earth."

This short benediction acknowledges and praises God for this gift of bread and fish. Regardless of the specific words that Jesus used, the result is a miracle. The 5 loaves and 2 fish were multiplied into more than enough to satisfy the hunger of this huge crowd.

The disciples began by recognizing that they don't have what is needed to accomplish God's purpose, which is to feed this crowd. Jesus showed them that they do have enough, when they offer what they have and trust God to use it and multiply it as needed to accomplish His purpose.

I can identify a few times in my life where I have recognized that I don't have what is needed to accomplish what is needed. One that comes to mind is recognizing at the age of 18 that God was calling me to be a pastor.

I responded by saying that I was too quiet, could never stand in front of a congregation and lead worship, didn't have the necessary faith or understanding to be able to prepare a sermon week after week, etc.

At the age of 18 I didn't know that God was directing me to be a pastor. I understood that call as God suggesting that I be a pastor, or telling me that He thought I should be a pastor.

Today I know and believe that God knows and wants what is best for me, and that is where God leads and directs me and all who claim to live by faith in Jesus.

In our Reading, when Jesus said, "You feed them", that is direction, not just casual advice. That means that the disciples have everything necessary to feed the people when they trust what they have to God and trust that God will accomplish His purpose using the little that they have.

Getting back to my story, I said "No" to God's call at the age of 18, but I did not say that I didn't want God in my life. I did still want God in my life, still prayed to God, believed in God, read my Bible regularly, went to church every Sunday.

About 9 years later, I was living and working in Toronto and attended a Lutheran congregation which had a few people who were labelled as charismatics.

A couple members of the congregation told me that these charismatics may corner me and ask whether I have been saved. I wasn't concerned. I knew them from our Bible Study group. I realized that when these "charismatics" prayed to God or talked about their relationship with God, they talked and prayed as if God was beside them, or inside them.

I thought of God as being off in the heavens, watching and listening to me and everyone. The God I worshipped was much more distant. I was drawn to that God who was intimate, not at all distant.

Their answer was simple, just invite Jesus into your heart and life, ask Him to forgive your sin, and transform you to become the person God wants you to be.

I offered that prayer in conversation with them, and nothing happened. That night, as I went to bed, I offered it again, and God filled me and my whole room. I was filled with a joy and peace beyond anything I had ever experienced.

I floated for 3 days. Almost immediately after I offered that prayer, the thought came to me, "You just offered your life to me, Jim; what about that God I gave you to be a pastor?"

My answer was something like, "What? I thought we dealt with that when I was 18." I am describing this as a conversation, which it was, but now in audible words. It was 2 sets of thoughts happening in my head.

God's response was, "you thought you were finished with my call when you were 18, but I was not finished. I was offering direction, not advice, and that direction is still the same."

It took a few minutes, or maybe a few days to work through that, but I knew that I needed to follow through on my prayer and my commitment to God. So I agreed to become a pastor.

And that's where today's Reading applies. I met with the Dean of our Seminary in Waterloo. After graduating high school, I enrolled in the University of Waterloo Bachelor of Math program primarily because I was good in Math, but also because after the first year, I would go to school for 4 months, and then work for 4 months.

However, I encountered Calculus and Abstract Algebra. I got a D in both but needed at least a C to stay in the program. The 2 options were: take some summer courses to improve my grades, or take a regular BA program with a major in Math.

I rejected both options and dropped out of University. When I met with the Dean of the Seminary, I was shocked to find out that they could accept mature students who had at least one year of University.

My grades were good enough for me to start Seminary in September. My meeting with the Dean was in July. I pointed out to God that I had \$500 in my bank account, but would need about \$1500 by the beginning of September to cover my tuition.

Like the disciples in our Gospel Reading, I recognized that this is not going to happen. God knew otherwise.

I was working in Toronto as the accountant for a Mechanical Contractor. I told the owner of the company that I was planning to enter Seminary in Sept. His response was that he was sad to see me leave, but saw my choice to become a pastor as a noble call.

I did not know that in April, the company established an employee pension plan for the office employees, which included me. Their contribution for that year was \$2500. I was free to leave it in the plan and let it grow, or withdraw it when I left for Seminary.

The "icing on the cake" was that the company found and hired a replacement for me in August. I didn't have any classes on Fridays in Seminary, and said I could come back on the 4 Fridays in Sept and work with my replacement to answer his questions, or offer whatever guidance I could.

I worked 4 days in the month of Sept; the company paid my full salary for the month. The bottom line was that I had more than enough to pay my tuition. My parents were retired and living in Waterloo, so I had free room and board.

God showed me that when He says I have or we have all that is needed to do what He asks, we have enough. Our part is to offer what we have to God and allow God to use it to accomplish His purpose.

I will add that we need to be sure that God is directing us; we can't just assume that God will bless whatever we set out to do in God's name. Amen

Lord's Prayer

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's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you,
The Lord look upon you with favour and give you (+) peace. Amen.

Dismissal

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

Thanks be to God.

Prayers used by permission by Augsburg Fortress – Sundays and Seasons

STTLC Communiqué

In Our Prayers Today.....Joanna Spencer, Marie Lenser, Mike Harrington, Lila Martinat, Irlavere Tubbe, Adele Krieger, Tracy Schori and Christa Reitlingshoefer.

At the Congregational Meeting of June 28th, it was decided to enter a call process with St. Peter's Alice and Grace Rankin. Your input is important to the call committee. A questionnaire is available for you to consider. Please return your responses to the church office by August 3, 2026. Your voice is important.

Parents of Post Secondary Students – Applications for the J. Wilmot Harvey Educational Bursary are available in the church office and must be submitted to the Church Secretary by September 30, 2026.

The Venasse Family tragically lost their home and all their belongings the morning of July 26. Kaitlyn, Eric and their daughters Ava and Rhea were able to escape. The family have been part of our community in recent years. Kaitlyn is the daughter of Karen and James Kutschke.

How can we help?? Throughout the month of August, a jar will be available in the narthex of the church for you to make a monetary gift to support the family. Please note, these donations are not receiptable and go directly to the family. Thank you for your caring acts of kindness.