

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2340 State Street, East Petersburg, PA 17520 717-569-1632

Website: www.trinityeastpete.org E-Mail:secretary@trinityeastpete.org
The Rev. Dr. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
The Rev. Harry G. Royer, Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Carolyne Call, Covenanted Minister of Mission
Mr. Michael Slechta, Director of Music/ Sounds of Trinity Choir Director
Dr. Robert T. Adams, Interim Organist
Mrs. Carmen Richards, Pianist
Mrs. Carol Kratz, Administrative Assistant
Mr. Michael Querry, Sexton
Mrs. Beth Ressler, Summer Interim Preschool Director

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 7:45 A.M. SERVICE

Today's Theme: Today is the first of five Sundays with gospel readings from John 6, the first four of which focus on Jesus as bread of life. Jesus feeds thousands of people with five loaves and two fish. What we have, what we bring to Jesus' table, seems like it is not nearly enough to meet all the needs we see around us. But it is not the adequacy of our supplies or our skills that finally makes the difference: it is the power of Jesus working in the littlest and least to transform this world into the world God desires, a world where all the hungry are satisfied.

Welcome all visitors! We welcome all who worship with us. May the joy of Christ's presence and the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with peace and hope! We are honored by your presence and trust that you will join us in the praise and worship of God. Please sign our guest book in the narthex. If you are interested in church membership, please give your name and telephone number to Pastor Rankin.

Welcome to the Eucharist! All who seek to follow Jesus and who seek the gifts Jesus offers us are invited to share in this sacrament of Holy Communion. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.

Prayer As You Enter: Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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CATCH THE VISION & SHARE THE JOY



TRINITY U.C.C. VISION STATEMENT:

All will know the love of God through the teachings of Jesus!!

Trinity U.C.C. is called by God to:

- --Share God's love with our community
- --Serve God's children
- --Bring healing and wholeness to those in need
- --Share the Gospel in liturgy, music and study

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

CALL TO WORSHIP

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND INVITATION TO THE TABLE

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

This is the hour to bend our knee before God. This is a time to offer our best to our Creator.

We gather before God, who sees all our deeds. We open our hearts to the One who knows all our thoughts.

God's presence evokes our joyous worship. The Holy Spirit empowers our service.

To God be the highest glory in the church. To God be endless adoration in the world.

In the Acts of the Apostles we read that as the church was gathered, often in the homes of believers, Christians devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayers.

Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, we gather at your table to know you in the breaking of the bread.

CONFESSION OF SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus said: You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, but we fear the Spirit's power.

Let us confess our slowness to embrace the new life of the Spirit.

(SEATED OR KNEELING)

SILENT CONFESSION OF SINS

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

Almighty God, who sent the promised power of the Holy Spirit to fill disciples with willing faith: We confess that we resist the force of your Spirit among us; that we are slow to serve you, and reluctant to spread the good news of your love. God, have mercy on us. Forgive our divisions, and by your Spirit draw us together. Enflame us with a desire to do your will and be your faithful people; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The good news is that God forgives us and gives us Jesus Christ to be living water and true bread. Let us accept with joy these precious gifts of abundant life! Amen.

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

ADORATION AND PRAISE

ACT OF PRAISE

O God, open my lips.

And my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

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

COLLECT FOR THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Let us pray the collect together.

By the riches of your glory, strengthen us. By the power of your word and work, transform us. By the wisdom of your counsel, teach us. Direct our thoughts and actions, O God, lest our eyes deceive us and immediate self-interest betray. Surround us with love that is eternal and joy that is complete. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON

2 Kings 4:42-44

Today's reading is part of a larger section of 2 Kings that describes the miracles of Elisha, the successor to Elijah. Here the prophet gives food to a hungry crowd. Though there is not enough food to go around, Elisha trusts God, who provides enough and even more to satisfy the need.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

THE PSALTER

Psalm 145:10-18

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD, and all your faithful shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and tell of your power,

To make known to all people your mighty deeds and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words and gracious in all his deeds.

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

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

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

The LORD is just in all his ways and kind in all his doings.

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

THE SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 3:14-21

We have been rooted and grounded in the love of Christ, which surpasses all human knowledge. Because Christ dwells in our hearts, our lives are continuously strengthened and empowered by the ongoing presence of the Spirit.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 6:1-21

In John's gospel the miracles of Jesus are called "signs" because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

Glory be to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD

Praise be to You, O Christ.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

Rev. Charles Gross

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 fully 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 in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, and 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.

PEOPLE'S OFFERING

OFFERING DEDICATION

Bless these tithes and offerings, O God, returned to you. Multiply and use them to bring the word and the touch of Jesus to this place and throughout the world, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. From everlasting to everlasting, you have revealed your mighty presence to us. Have we not heard? Have we not known? In the beginning, you swept across the earth with your Spirit of life and renewal. When we forgot or neglected your truth, you redeemed us and renewed us. From the earth's first gardens to the mountaintop storms, you have spoken to us, and entrusted us to be your people. From laws on tablets to warnings from prophets, you have spoken your truth and renewed your covenant with us, reviving us and reclaiming us through your grace and love. And so, with your people on earth, with all of creation, and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn of praise, saying:

Holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God, Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you and blessed is your holy name. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, to reveal your powerful love for the world. Healing and teaching, proclaiming and prophesying, welcoming any and all, Christ continues to reveal your presence, renewing our souls even now. Through Christ's powerful love and endless grace, we are invited into your presence, rescued from our sins, and led onto your path of justice and righteousness. In Christ's grace, you renew and reclaim us as your holy people, children of mercy and truth. As children of your covenant of love, sealed by water and the Spirit, welcome now with joy and gratitude, remembering how Jesus shared bread and wine, renewing and reviving the lives of his closest friends, his most faithful disciples, even as they faced their deepest fears and their greatest sins.

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

THE PRAYER OF OUR LORD

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE HOST & POURING OF THE CUP

As this grain was once scattered in the fields, and has come together in one bread, so we, with different needs and hopes, come together as one, for we share one bread.

The Bread of Life, broken for us.

The cup which we share is the cup of the New Covenant written in our hearts and witnessed by Jesus.

The Cup of Blessing, poured out for us and for the many.

RESURRECTION ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is offered for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

(Those who wish to come forward will be invited by the pastor. The pastor will serve you the host, saying, "The Body of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" The assistant will present you with the cup, saying, "The Blood of Christ." You reply, "Amen!" Grape juice is in the chalice with the cross and wine is in the other chalice. If you need the pastor and assistant to come to you, please indicate that to someone near you or the pastor. If you do not wish to come forward, you are invited to use the packaged elements in the narthex and commune in your pew. The pastor will offer a blessing everyone has communed. Children are invited to receive communion at the discretion of their parents/guardians. If a child wants to receive a blessing, they are asked to fold their hands.)

(PLEASE STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE)

POST COMMUNION PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

One in the communion of saints and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we join our voices in prayer.

God of generations, you work in us far more than we can ask or imagine. Bless the church you have called into being across time and space, and fill it with the power of the Spirit for loving service. In your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God of field and forest, streams and seas, you are the fullness of all things. As grains of wheat grow upon the earth and fish swim in the waters, sustain your creation. Protect harvests and give every person food in due season. In your mercy, hear our prayer.

God beyond borders, you rule all in all. Bless the work of humanitarians and peacekeepers, shield those who live, work, or serve in harm's way, and bring an end to war and conflict. In your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near. In your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

God of grace, you root us and ground us in love. As you inspired our ancestors in this place in their ministry, sustain us also in new endeavors, that your glory may be made known, and your lovingkindness shared anew. In your mercy, hear our prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

Let us pray together.

Jesus, Bread of Life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray. Amen.

CLOSE OF WORSHIP

BENEDICTION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chancel Flowers are given by Charlene Cristy in memory and remembrance of the 79th birthdays of James Diffenderfer, friend, and William Lenker, brother to Charlene Cristy.

The Worship Aids are given by Denise Pfeiffer to honor all VBS teachers and helpers for making this year a success!!

Happy Birthday!

Today – Isaac Derstler, Lisa Wible

Monday – Joanna Bullock

Tuesday – Rev. Susan Sokolowski, Bob Kilgore

Thursday – Paige Martin

Friday - Ron Denlinger, Rev. Tom Busteed

Ministering Today

Pastor Rev. Charles Gross
Lector Rev. Sandy Morris

Money Counters Bud & Kathy McCarty, Jeff Hackenberger, John Shelsky

Altar Guild Karen Olley, Beth Bossert, Nancy Enders

Building Trustee Pat Sensenig

Ministries Card Deacons Called to Care Nancy Enders

Visitation Janice Jenkins

Today we welcome the Rev. Charles Gross as our guest preacher. Rev. Gross grew up on Lemon Street in East Petersburg, PA. He married his high school sweetheart, Lisa, in 1973, and they have three grown children and six grandchildren. He grew up at Trinity Church and was confirmed by Pastor Geisler on May 14, 1967. After graduating from Hempfield High School, Charlie went to Grove City College, Webster University, Goldey Beacom College, and Lancaster Theological Seminary (he graduated with Pastor Rankin). He was a Titan II Missile Combat Crew Commander in the U.S. Air Force, then attended pilot training and flew C-130s for twenty years. He retired in 1999 as a Lt. Col. in the Delaware Air National Guard.

After retiring from the military in 1999, Rev. Gross served as the Associate Executive Presbyter while he was a student at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Ordained by the Presbytery of Donegal in 2004, Rev. Gross continued to serve as the Associate Executive Presbyter, and later became the Acting Executive Presbyter for the Presbytery of Donegal. In 2011, he was called to pastor the West Grove Presbyterian Church.

He retired from active ministry in August 2019. Charlie loves travel, photography, journaling, and spending time with his family. He started a podcast in 2020 titled, "Encouraging Words by Charlie Gross," (available on iTunes, Google, or at: http://charliegross.com). The podcasts are also available in book form at the same link. Charlie and Lisa volunteer with Church World Service.

STAFF VACATIONS: Pastor Rankin will be away from July 20-August 3. **The Rev. Sandy Morris**, a member of our congregation, will be covering pastoral emergencies from July 28-August 3. You can reach Rev. Morris at 717-385-1588. **Pastor Chris will be with us next Sunday.** Carol Kratz is away July 31-August 2.

This Week at Trinity Church

(Church Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-2 p.m.)

Wednesday-Friday Secretary on Vacation

Thursday 6:30 PM – Exec. Committee Mtg.

Saturday 8:00 PM – Alanon/AA Sunday 7:45 AM – Eucharist

9:30 AM – Eucharist

PRAYERS FOR GOD'S HEALING PRESENCE

MEMBERS

Ken & Janice JenkinsRick MowrerNancy PattonBetsy BaileyBetty FogleJack Olley

Kelsey Minnich Burgo Bob & Marlyn Wible Don & Pat Miller

Harry Himelwright Dr. Janet Harriger Joann Peck

Scott & Jane Owens The Lehman family Mary Lou Shaab

Carmen & Jerry Richards Donna Wolf & Family George & Ellie Latsha

Lainie Christensen Stan & Pat Seachrist Sam Minder III

Pastor Harry Royer Rev. Dave & Mid Gockley Hank Fox Rev. Ken Trauger Rev. Bob & Nancy Musser Donna Zirkel

Kathleen Sensenig Adams Betty Tyndall and family Michael McDonough

Danielle Huggins Holbein Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline Ron Becker

Joann & Dawn Garvin Hedwig Hunsicker Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman

Ken & Phyllis Zimmerman Erika Otthofer Denise Huggins

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Chad Zirkel (son of Donna Zirkel)

Kaitlyn, Ben, and Lucy Miller (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)

Rev. Pam Illick (pastor of Zion Lutheran, East Petersburg)

Brian Latsha (son of George & Ellie Latsha)

Barbie, Jon, and Will Bundy (family of Rev. Dr. Rich & Lainie Christensen)

Rev. Jim Martin (Rev. Dr. Rich & Lanie Christensen's former pastor)

Quinn McCarty (grandson of Bud & Kathy McCarty)

Ken Hoshauer (husband of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Kurt Kalbach (brother of Dr. Cathy Houshauer)

Tuyet Nguyen (husband of Pat & Stan Seachrist's granddaughter)

Mary Call (mother of Rev. Dr. Carrie Call)

Art Cobb (nephew of John & Dolly Barr)

The Herr Family (A Trinity Preschool Family)

Sharon Brown (sister of Sandy DeLong)

Chris Rice (nephew of Diane Rice & Karen Olley)

Sally & Joe Carrol (friend of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)

Kurt McEllhemmey (relative of Betty Tyndall)

David Brown (nephew of Shelley & Mike Wagner)

Annette Stork (niece of Pat Sensenig)

Logan Davis (husband of Hillary Bossert-Davis)

Brian & Liz Culp (son and daughter-in-law of Rev. Jere & Judy Chapman)

Jean Weglarz (neighbor of Rev. Bob & Judie Bistline)

Melby Bush (friend of Joan Sensenig)

Harvey & Dianne Sick (friends of Judy Chapman)

Rev. Loy Garber (former seminarian)

Roland Anderson and family (friends of John & Kayla Brennan)

John Martin (brother-in-law of Dolly & John Barr)

James Malone & family

Tom & Elaine Lichtenwalner (parents of Mike Lichtenwalner)

Jordan Sensenig (grandson of Pat & Joan Sensenig)

The Martin family

Robert Richards (brother of Jerry Richards)

Ronald Himelwright (grandson of Brenda & Harry Himelwright)

Barry Richards (son of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

Tyler Miller (grandson of Iris DeMaio)

Joan Kalbach (mother of Dr. Cathy Hoshauer)

Jim & Kathy Long (friends of Jerry & Carmen Richards)

John Siebern (Bob Siever's brother-in-law)

Jo Jo Richards & family (Carmen & Jerry's granddaughter-in-law)

THE JULY/AUGUST PARISH POST is available in the information racks on both floors of the church building.

DEVOTIONALS: The April-June edition of These Days are available on the table across from the church office or on the lower level by the portico entrance.

THE 2024 CONCERT SPONSOR FORMS are available on the table across from the church office.

VBS MISSION PROJECT: This year's VBS mission project is Habitat for Humanity. You can donate to the offering by marking the special designation box on your offering envelope with "VBS Mission Offering".

SERVERS NEEDED: We are in need of greeters, ushers, and nursery care volunteers for the 9:30 worship service. Please contact the church office if you are interested in serving as an usher or greeter. Please contact Betty Fogle if you are interested in serving as a nursery attendant (717-471-1026 or bettsfog@comcast.net).

THE NEW CHURCH DIRECTORIES are available in the information racks on both floors of the church building!

2024 CHANCEL FLOWERS AND WORSHIP AID SPONSORS: Upcoming dates for worship aids are: August 11 & 25. Upcoming dates for Chancel Flowers are August 11. The price for flowers is \$60. The price for worship aids is \$26. Look for the charts on the bulletin board in the narthex or call Carol in the church office.



Preschool Needs: Please help support our preschool by reviewing the available slots on table outside office for needed supplies and sign up. Thank you! Please bring all donation to church no later than August 11th. Box in the Narthex.



AUGUST 25, 4:00-6:30 PM

Look for the sign-up sheet on the table across from the church office!



East Petersburg Parade

The annual East Petersburg Day Parade will follow the 5K at 10AM and lead families, friends and neighbors to East Petersburg Community Park for an amazing day filled with live music, jugglers, rides, games, and food!

The Parish Life Committee will be organizing a float for this year's parade. We will need people to ride on the float, so watch for more information in the worship bulletins and the September Parish Post!!!

TRIP TO WASHINGTON D.C.: The Christian Education Committee is planning to sponsor a trip to Washington D.C. on October 26. We are hoping to visit the National Cathedral and the other museums. We don't have any details yet on the cost, but we are asking you to sign-up if you are interested at this point. The sign-up sheet is on the table across from the church office. **For more information, speak to Sue Bowman or Pastor Rankin**.

Mt. Gretna Bible Festival 2024 Season

ALL PROGRAMS ARE IN THE HISTORIC TABERNACLE, THIRD ST & GLOSSBRENNER AVE Parking at Mt. Gretna Fire Co.

Handicapped Parking at Mt. Gretna United Methodist Church Parking Lot
PARKING AT THE MT. GRETNA ROLLER RINK - in DEFINED AREAS ONLY!!!!
Roller Rink Parking on the following dates: July 28; August 3, 4, 11, 18, 25, 2024

Sunday, July 28, 2024 - Choir Festival - 7 p.m. Composer Craig Courtney will direct 100 voices in a joyous Sunday Concert. Accompanist Dan Dorty will be joined by flute and brass. Freewill Offering will be received. Sponsored by Loser's Music. Concert made possible by the Estate of Douglas Troutman. Singers can register online this year by clicking on this link: Zeffy To request a printable file contact: office@mtgretnatabernacle.org

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 - Hymn Sing - 7 p.m. Congregational favorites from the Celebration Hymnal led by Bob Kettering and Dr. Rod Shearer. Freewill Offering will be received.

Saturday, August 3, 2024 - Handbell Festival - 7 p.m. Under the direction of Dr. Shawn Gingrich, Hershey, Pa., ringers from the area will ring the praise and glory of God. Freewill Offering will be received. Sponsored by Home Instead.

Sunday, August 4, 2024 - Daniel Dorty - 7 p.m. Pianist and Organist for the acclaimed Susquehanna Chorale, and Director of Music and Organist for the Derry Presbyterian Church, Dan Dorty joined by musicians from Derry Church, their Sanctuary Choir and Derry Ringers for an evening of sacred music celebrating the Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs of our

Faith. Freewill Offering will be received.

Wednesday, August 7, 2024 - Summit Hill Bluegrass Band - 7

p.m. From southeastern Pa., Summit Hill Bluegrass Band plays bluegrass, gospel and a wide variety of other music. Freewill Offering will be received. Sponsored by JoAnn Thomas Show.

Sunday, August 11, 2024 - Dr. Peter W. Teague, Pres. Emeritus & Ambassador, Lancaster Bible College - 7 p.m. Dr. Teague and his wife Paulette are founders of Jessica and Friends Community, a non-profit organization offering residential services, training in daily living skills, and social services to adults with developmental disabilities. Freewill Offering will be received.

SUMMER PROGRAMS AT MT. GRETNA CHAUTAQUA

For more information go to: www.pachautauqua.info



Where's the Ark of the Covenant?

Thu Aug 1st 10:00am

Dr. Herb Smith explores the tradition of the affair of Solomon & Sheba and this holy object in the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. **Hall of Philosophy**

FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left." ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Psalm 145:10-18

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL: John 6:1-21

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples.

⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. 5When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. 7Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." 8One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" 10 Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." 13So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.