

The Seventh Sunday after Trinity Sunday  
St. Mark 8:1-9  
July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, UAC  
Simpsonville, SC  
Pastor Jerald Dulas

## So They Ate and Were Filled

*In Nomine Iesu!*

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

### **Prayer in Pulpit before Sermon:**

O Lord, send out Thy Light and Thy Truth, let them lead us. O Lord, open Thou my lips, that my mouth may show forth Thy praise. O Lord, graciously preserve me, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be rejected. Amen.

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior + Jesus Christ. Amen.

In our Lord's temptation in the wilderness He said to the devil that man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Today's Gospel reading is an example of that. Our Lord + Jesus tells His disciples that the crowds were hungry because they had been following Him for three days. What were they doing this whole time? They were listening to the words of the Lord + Jesus—they were listening to every word that proceeded out of the mouth of God. They did not care about anything but what He had to say. And because of this, after three days of hearing our Lord + Jesus preach, and being concerned with nothing else, they were out of food. They were also too far away from any market to buy food.

They found themselves in the wilderness with the Lord + Jesus and His Word. They lived by His Word. They were in the same position that the Lord was when He was tempted by the devil.

So, what does the Lord do? He has compassion on the crowds. They desired to hear only Him; to listen only to Him and His Word to the neglect of their basic needs of sustenance. Therefore, the Lord + Jesus supplies what they lack. He could have sent them away so that they could find food. But, some of them had come from too far away to make it home without fainting from hunger. If they wanted to hear the Lord and His Word, then the Lord was not only going to supply the needs of their soul, but also the needs of their body.

This is the second time the Lord + Jesus had done something like this. The previous time the disciples could only gather together five loaves of barley bread and two small fish. That small amount of food supplied the needs of five thousand men, plus women and children. Here our Lord supplies the needs of the multitude with seven loaves and a few fish. This small amount would feed four thousand men, plus women and children. And the thing to remember is what the Evangelist St. Mark tells us about this event. The crowds did not just receive a little. They did not just receive enough to keep them going. No, they received enough to fill them up, so that there were leftovers—seven large basketfuls of leftovers. Everybody received an abundance. Nobody got just enough to get by.

Such it is with our Lord's compassion on us. He pours out His grace and His mercy upon us until we are full and satiated. As the psalmist said, our cup runs over.

The Lord is abundant in His earthly gifts to the multitudes following Him. But, He also provides all that we need to support this body and life. We even pray for it whenever we pray the Lord's prayer or confess the first article of the Creed. The Lord God provides for all of our needs of the body. He gives us daily bread. He gives us clothing and shoes, house and home, land, money, wives and children, and all that we need to make our earthly lives enjoyable—good weather, good government, health, peace and the like. He is not skimpy in His earthly gifts. Everything in this life that we find enjoyable is a gift from God meant for our enjoyment; and meant to draw us closer to Him.

But the Lord + Jesus does not just supply our wants of the body, He also supplies our needs of the soul. He had already done this for three days with the crowds in the Gospel reading. They had continued with Him for three days. They heard His Word. They thirsted after the Gospel of our Lord + Jesus Christ. They desired to be with the Lord; to commune with the Lord; to be in fellowship with the Lord.

This is how we should be towards our Lord. We should be eager to hear His Word; eager to come to this place of worship and commune with Him and be taught by Him. And, not only on Sunday mornings, but throughout our week, we should strive to hear our Lord. We should daily be in His Word, studying His Word, reflecting upon His Word, believing and doing His Word. It is certainly easy for us to make weekly trek to this place of worship to gather with other believers and hear our Lord's Words—at least for the most part. But, it is harder when we are away from the parish in our everyday lives; when we are not surrounded by our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to hear what our Lord + Jesus would teach us and live our lives according to it.

When we are away from this place in our every day lives, we are like the crowds, stuck in the wilderness with nowhere to buy food for our souls. The crowds clung to the words of the Lord + Jesus. So too should we. We cling to the words of the Lord + Jesus when we daily read and study His Word. If our daily devotions in our families only consist of a brief prayer before meals, then we need to step it up. The temptations of the devil are too abundant and too deceptive for us to expect that we can resist them by a simple prayer before our meals. No, the devil must be fought with the Word of God. We fight the devil by doing just like the crowds in the Gospel from the Evangelist St. Mark did; they continued steadfastly with the Lord + Jesus clinging to His every Word.

The Lord's Word is sufficient for us. It teaches us what our Lord + Jesus has done for us and continues to do for us. It teaches us that our sins are paid for by Him. Our sins were taken upon Him on the cross and those sins were paid for once and for all.

We have also been baptized. We have been washed clean of all the sins of Adam, and of our own sins, too. We are therefore, new creations in God's sight. We should live our lives in this truth. The Lord is not meager in His gifts. He gives us more than we need. He is abundant in His grace and mercy towards us. We show our thanks by continuing with Him in the wilderness; by daily reading and studying His Word; by daily hearing the Gospel and what He has done for us. When we daily confess our sins, drowning the Old Adam, this is exactly what we are doing; we are hearing what our Lord has declared about us. He has declared us righteous—justified—on account of our faith in Him; on account of our continuing daily with Him. When we cling to our Lord + Jesus in faith, we are simply doing what the crowds in today's Gospel reading were doing. They were clinging to every word from the mouth of God.

From His mouth the Lord feeds and sustains us. For He tells us once again that He has suffered and died in our place on the tree of the holy cross and endured the wrath and displeasure of the heavenly Father for our benefit. He even places this promise into bread and wine. In this bread and wine of the Lord's Supper He gives us the His very Body and Blood, which was offered up for us, so that we might have forgiveness and remission of our sins.

Our Lord + Jesus is abundant with His gifts. He provides everything we need for this body and life, both for our physical needs and more importantly for our spiritual needs. He gives these things to us so that we will not be without hope in the wilderness as we face the devil's temptations. He supplies all that we need in abundance, so that we never go hungry or thirsty. This is especially true of His spiritual gifts. He has given us His Holy Word so that we might learn to cling to Him and trust in Him even in the midst of life's trials and temptations. The Lord will not leave us hungry. The Lord will not leave us to fend for ourselves. He has compassion on us and supplies us with His Word, so that we may daily follow Him and continue with Him and be drawn to Him in faith. Grant this Lord unto us all. In the Name of our Lord + Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Prayer in Pulpit after Sermon:**

Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name give glory! I will extol Thee, O Lord, and I will praise Thy Name forever and ever. Amen.

**The Votum:**

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Amen.

*Soli Deo Gloria!*