

Sunday, August 2, 2020 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost/Confirmation
“Jesus’ Face”

Matthew 14: 13-21

Rev. Derek S. Klemm, Mountain View Lutheran Church, Las Vegas, NV

Story Applied

Adapted from CPR

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

I want you to think back to all the things that have happened in the Gospel text of the feeding of the 5,000. What then have you seen? Well, maybe you’ve seen Jesus’ face fall under the weight of mourning loss of John the Baptist. You’ve seen his face lifted as he works all hours of the day healing people in the crowds. You’ve seen his face pointed toward heaven as his bread feeds thousands.

These confirmands will share what it is to see His face in their life in their faith statements. As they share this, think about how it applies to you. Where have you seen him working through simple things, offering you a glimpse at the kingdom? Because he is; I promise he is. Jesus provided with simple means and miraculous ways and still provides today.

Confirmands read Faith Statements

Have you seen it through the simple but kind words of holy comfort spoken by a loved one at the right time? Is it in the memory of when he claimed you here, with water and word? Is it in the small meal of a little bread and a little wine that is given to you for forgiveness, for life, for salvation? Is it in compassion and love through a neighbor reaching out on the phone, or a Zoom call, or an email? In this life, you and I need all of those moments when God feeds us and nourishes us and forgives us, because this life is filled with the pain of death that we can’t bear and diseases that we can’t understand and heartache and hunger that we can’t overcome alone. But the promise of Jesus is that we aren’t alone, even when we step away to catch our breath. Because the Jesus who was crucified for our sins—he looked so ordinary hanging there—died with the promise that he would conquer death, and in his

resurrection, we have just a little glimpse of what new life in him looks like today and forever in the Father's house. Hanging on the cross, alone, arms spread in giving, eyes pointed heavenward praying, carrying the weight of all, laying himself down to take your burden up. See him die for you.

Until that day when we celebrate the feast of always enough, we gather around the simple places where Jesus promises to feed us, with enough to carry us through in simple things like his word and promise. See him work again and again. See him in wafer, wine, and water. In Jesus' name, Amen.