**Hillside UMC Sermon Prep Sheet**

***Pastor Chris Neikirk***

**Date: Sunday, October 1, 2017 – World Communion Sunday**

**Sermon Title: Broken Together**

**Scripture: Isaiah 53:1-6, 11-12 (*NIV*)** Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? 2He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. 3He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. 4Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. 5But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. 6We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

11After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. 12Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**Mark 8:1-9a (*NIV*)** 1 During those days another large crowd gathered. Since they had nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples to him and said, 2“I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. 3If I send them home hungry, they will collapse on the way, because some of them have come a long distance.” 4His disciples answered, “But where in this remote place can anyone get enough bread to feed them?” 5“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied. 6He told the crowd to sit down on the ground. When he had taken the seven loaves and given thanks, he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people, and they did so. 7They had a few small fish as well; he gave thanks for them also and told the disciples to distribute them. 8The people ate and were satisfied. Afterward the disciples picked up seven basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. 9About four thousand were present.

**Call to Worship: (8:30 only)**

**Holy and merciful God,**

 **As we gather for worship, let us be open to your presence among your people,**

 **Those gathered here and all of your people throughout your world.**

 **May we receive you fully and respond to you wholeheartedly. Amen.**

**Basic Theme: *World Communion Sunday is a day set aside for worship of God the creator and for acknowledging that God’s Church extends throughout all of creation. Jesus Christ died for all people everywhere – past, present, and future. Although He is perfect, we are all broken yet made whole through is perfect love. Regardless of how often the “bread of life” is broken, there is always more than enough to satisfy.***

**Sermon Snapshot (Key Points): Today is an acknowledgement and celebration of the inclusivity of God’s universal Church. The foundational belief of the Christian church is that Jesus Christ died for the sins of humanity and offers everyone the opportunity of a new life. We may all be broken, but we are called into a relationship with Jesus Christ and invited to be broken together. Just as Jesus broke the bread offered it to the four thousand… and just as Jesus broke the bread and offered it to the twelve disciples… we continue to break the bread and offer it to everyone.**

**So What? Do you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins and offers you a new life? Have you received the grace of God and tasted the goodness of the “bread of life?”**