

*For the week of The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 6th, through August 12th, 2023*

Notes for the Week — The Feeding of the Five Thousand Matthew 14:13-21

The parable discourse complete, the disciples' faith is put to the test. After the parables Jesus returns to Nazareth and is rejected there. Around the same time, John the Baptist is beheaded. Things don't seem to be going so well. Even Jesus retreats to a desolate place. But when the crowds hear where Jesus had gone, they followed him from the towns. When he saw them, he had compassion and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples wanted Jesus to send them home because they had no way to feed them. But Jesus told them to give the people something to eat.

Jesus was testing their faith. They had a direct command from Jesus, "You give them something to eat." The parables which assured them that God was working and in control, providing for all their needs. Would they trust and obey Jesus, or would their faith fall flat? "We only have five loaves here and two fish." Their faith flatlined. Even so, Jesus has compassion upon his disciples, just as he had compassion upon the crowd. They were unable, yet Jesus makes them able.

Jesus prepares the crowds for the meal and takes the food in hand. He pronounces a blessing, and then gives the food to the disciples. Only then do they fulfill his command, which they thought they could never do: "you give them something to eat." And so now the disciples obey, distributing the bread and fish among the crowds. And everyone is fed. They are *satisfied*. All five thousand men, plus women and children. They could not eat any more if they tried. Not only that, there is also an abundance of leftovers from the bread that Jesus had fragmented. They result in twelve full baskets. And these were large baskets.

When we see Jesus in compassion provide for his people in the wilderness, we think again of the Exodus, that great redemptive act of God, when he sent manna from above to keep them alive in the desert. We also think of Jesus providing another meal for his disciples, the Lord's Supper, which endures to eternal life. Also, after the resurrection, when Jesus feeds his disciples fish on the shore of the sea. God cares for His people and provides, in this age and in the age to come. Over and over we see God's compassionate love pointing us to the everlasting feast of the resurrection.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

VERSE: PSALM 78:25

Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.

PSALM 136:1-9 or the appointed daily psalms

Prayer on the Psalm

My Father, God of mercy and truth, to Your mercy do I look for deliverance from sin and death. Your mercy will I plead before Your judgement seat. Your mercy will I sing all the days of my life. Have mercy upon us, and forgive us our transgressions, for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	42, 43	45	48	50	52, 53	54, 56	59	62, 63
Evening	44	46, 47	49	51	55	57, 58	60, 61	64, 65

BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	
Monday	Questions about the Resurrection—Matthew 22:23-33	Zechariah 5:1-6:8
Tuesday	The Greatest Commandment—Matthew 22:34-46	Zechariah 6:9-7:14
Wednesday	Woe to the Scribes and Pharisees—Matthew 23:1-36	Zechariah 8:1-23
Thursday	Jesus Predicts the Signs of the End—Matthew 23:37-24:14	Zechariah 9:1-17
Friday	The Great Tribulation—Matthew 24:15-31	Zechariah 10:1-12
Saturday	Job 38:4-18	Romans 10:5-17

CATECHISM — Baptism, First Review

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 28:19)

DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

Collect of the Week

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge Your gifts, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

In Our Prayers this Week

Our Congregation: David Ericson; Mark & Teresa Falls; Mary Fehr; Nicolas & Amanda Ferguson, Evelyn; Linda Floyd; Rich & Kay Gerdes

Baptismal Birthdays: Lisa Shea; Wade Davis; Gavin Helget

Wedding Anniversaries: Brad & Michelle Graf; Scott & Joy Dwyer

Members of the Congregation: Alan Barraza; Chris Hildebrandt; Max Herrick; Terry Rohlfing; Xander Daniel; John Schultze

Friends of our Congregation: Cindy Hyson; Jane Gorton; Gloria Bohling;

Other:

Our Circuit:

Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett; Vacant

Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar; Vacant

Our District Staff and President, Rev. Justin Panzer.

Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist

Heather Williams, Business Manager

Our Synod and President, Rev. Matthew Harrison

Our Community: *City of Richmond; City of Princeton; USD 288*

Our State and Governor, Laura Kelly

Our Nation and President, Joseph Biden

LORD'S PRAYER

MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

—or—

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

HYMN OF THE WEEK

"From God Can Nothing Move Me"

713

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| <p>1 O living Bread from heaven,
How well You feed your guest!
The gifts that You have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.</p> <p>2 My Lord, You here have led me
To this most holy place
And with Yourself have fed me
The treasures of Your grace;
For You have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.</p> | <p>3 You gave me all I wanted;
This food can death destroy.
And You have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor You have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before Your throne.</p> <p>4 Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav'nly food, while here
My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when You call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through Your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.</p> |
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Text: Johann Rist, 1607-67; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.
Text: Public domain

Looking Forward to "The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost"

August 13, 2023

Readings: Job 38:4-18 | Romans 10:5-17 | Matthew 14:22-33

The Lord who "laid the foundation of the earth" (Job 38:4) is the Author and Giver of life who governs all things by His Word. His wisdom and power are beyond our understanding, except as He reveals Himself in the incarnate Word, Christ Jesus. He has "entered into the springs of the sea" and "walked in the recesses of the deep" (Job 38:16), and He draws near to us in mercy. We have been "a long way from the land, beaten by the waves" and tossed about by hostile winds (Matt. 14:24). In our mortality and sinful unbelief, we do not always recognize the Lord Jesus. But as we cry out in fear, He speaks tenderly to us, "Do not be afraid," and He reaches out His hand to save us (Matt. 14:27, 31). "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13), and now we call upon Him in faith, because we have heard "through the word of Christ" (Rom. 10:17). "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (Rom. 10:8).

