

Home worship service during time of isolation and social distancing.

## The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost August 2, 2020

It is easy for us to become overly focused on the economy and our own personal finances. Entire cable networks are dedicated to this subject. We may grumble and complain that someone else has a bigger house, a nicer car or a better job. Yet God has promised to provide us with all that we need to support this body and life. He does this graciously every day just as He provided manna from heaven for the Children of Israel during their 40 years in the wilderness. More than that God has provided all that we need to bring us to eternal life by sending His own Son to be our Savior.

**Shepherd of Tender Youth** Lutheran Service Book 864, Lutheran Worship 471, The Lutheran Hymnal 628



1 Shep - herd of ten - der youth, Guid - ing in  
2 You are the ho - ly Lord, O all - sub -  
3 You are the great High Priest; You have pre -  
4 O ev - er be our guide, Our shep - herd,



love and truth Through de - vious ways; Christ, our tri -  
du - ing Word, Heal - er of strife. Your - self You  
pared the feast Of ho - ly love; And in our  
and our pride, Our staff and song. Je - sus, O



um - phant king, We come Your name to sing  
did a - base That from sin's deep dis - grace  
mor - tal pain None calls on You in vain;  
Christ of God, By Your en - dur - ing Word



And here our chil - dren bring To join Your praise.  
You so might save our race And give us life.  
Our plea do not dis - dain; Help from a - bove.  
Lead us where You have trod; Make our faith strong.

5 So now, and till we die,  
Sound we Your praises high  
And joyful sing:  
Infants and all the throng,  
Who to the Church belong,  
Unite to swell the song  
To Christ, our king!

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**L** In the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**L** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.** (*Psalm 124:8*)

**L** Who can discern his errors? Forgive my hidden faults.

**C** **Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me.** (*Psalm 19:12, 13*)

**L** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.** (*Psalm 130:3–4*)

**L** Let us, confess before God that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and as His people let us take refuge in His infinite mercy seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, saying:

**C** **God, be merciful to me, a sinner, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.** (*Luke 18:13*)

**L** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Your holy Church, You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

**Introit** Psalm 105:39–43; antiphon 105:1

**L** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

**C** **He spread a cloud for a covering,  
and fire to give light by night.**

**L** They asked, and he brought quail,  
and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.

**C** **He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.**

**L** For he remembered his holy promise,  
and Abraham, his servant.

**C** **So he brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with singing.**

**C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**L** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

## Kyrie

- L** O Lord,           **C** Have mercy on us.  
**L** O Christ,       **C** Have mercy on us.  
**L** O Lord,           **C** Have mercy on us.

## Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory to God in the Highest

- L** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
**C** **Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father: We worship You, we give You thanks, and we praise You for Your glory.**  
**L** Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, You are Lord and God, You are the Lamb of God:  
**C** **Lord Jesus Christ, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**  
**L** Lord Jesus Christ, You are seated at the right hand of the Father; and we ask you to graciously receive our prayer.  
**C** **For You alone are the Holy One,  
You alone are the Lord,  
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Collect of the Day

- L** Let us pray: 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.  
**C** **Amen.**

## Isaiah 55:1–5

<sup>1</sup>“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
<sup>4</sup>Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup>Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual** Romans 11:33, 36

- L** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowl edge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
- C** **For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be glory forever. Amen.**

**Psalm 136:1–9**

- L** <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- C** <sup>2</sup>**Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.**
- L** <sup>3</sup>Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** <sup>4</sup>**to him who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;**
- L** <sup>5</sup>to him who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** <sup>6</sup>**to him who spread out the earth above the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;**
- L** <sup>7</sup>to him who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** <sup>8</sup>**the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;**
- L** <sup>9</sup>the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

**Romans 9:1–5**

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup>that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup>To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Verse** Psalm 78:25

- L** Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; Alleluia.
- C** **Alleluia. He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.**

## Matthew 14:13–21

**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard [about the death of John], he withdrew from there in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup>Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup>But Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

**L** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven**

**and sits at the right hand of God the Father  
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living  
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**



1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y  
2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, Spring - ing from e -  
3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, See the cloud and  
4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a



of our God; He whose word can - not be bro - ken Formed you  
ter - nal love, Well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters And all  
fire ap - pear For a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, Show - ing  
mem - ber am, Let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for His own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,  
fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er  
that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner  
glo - ry in Your name. Fad - ing are the world's vain plea - sures,



What can shake your sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's  
Ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace, which like the  
Light by night and shade by day, Safe they feed up -  
All their boast - ed pomp and show; Sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, You may smile at all your foes.  
Lord, the giv - er, Nev - er fails from age to age.  
on the man - na Which God gives them on their way.  
last - ing trea - sures None but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

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### Devotional thoughts:

“May you live in interesting times” is an expression that comes to us from Merrie Olde England, although some claim it to be an ancient Chinese curse. We certainly do live in interesting times. If you long for a more normal and calm life, you are not alone!

The pandemic is certainly interesting. Future generations will study it and our global response. Medical scientists occupy themselves with finding vaccines, treatments, and cures. Social scientists are interested in our reaction to the threat of illness and our willingness (or lack of willingness) to adapt to a “new normal.”

Politicians are interested in using it to their advantage in the fall elections. Business leaders are interested in using it to turn a profit. People of good will are interested in caring for those who are suffering through it all.

We live in a time of interesting national debate. Should we kneel at the playing of the national anthem or stand? Are we supporting a noble cause or insulting patriotic heroes? Is anarchy in our cities good or bad? Indeed these are interesting times.

Heat waves and hurricanes, tornadoes and droughts keep our weather interesting.

Our economy is interesting. Will the stock market go up? Will it go down? Will businesses survive or will they thrive? Will I have a job? Can I feed my family?

The people of Jesus' day lived in interesting times. There was an oppressive government. The religious leaders were heartless. Healthcare was almost nonexistent. Slavery was an accepted part of society. Many people were poor. Hunger was always at the door.

As we consider our time or any period, it soon becomes apparent that every time has its own challenge. Every era is interesting in its own way. History is full of pandemics and plagues, wars and oppression, danger and hardship. Through all of this we have a loving God who cares for us.

In the Gospel lesson for today, Jesus is heartsick. He has just learned that John the Baptist has been beheaded. He wants some time alone. Their lives were entwined since before they were born. Both of their births had been foretold by angels. Their mothers spent time together during their pregnancies. John had prepared the way for Jesus' ministry. Now he was gone! Jesus needed some time alone. But this could not be.

As Jesus sails with His disciples to a desolate place, the desperate crowds see the boat and follow Him on foot from all of the towns. When He comes to shore, hoping for some quiet time, He is greeted by a great crowd of suffering people. What could He do? He had compassion on them! He healed their sick.

Jesus' expedition had not been planned. He wanted to be alone and set off in the boat. The people following Him had not prepared for their travels. They simply watched and followed His boat from shore. Now they are in a desolate place, the day is over, and there is no food. Who will feed this massive crowd of five thousand men, besides women and children?

The disciples plan to send them away. Jesus plans to feed them.

I am reminded of the old folk song, "There is a hole in the bucket" and the question, "With what shall I fix it?" The disciples ask Jesus, "With what shall we feed them? We have only five loaves here and two fish."

The disciples, like each of us, have short memories. They have forgotten about water changed to wine. They have forgotten about manna in the wilderness. They have forgotten about the great catch of fish breaking their nets.

Jesus, while experiencing grief, has compassion for the people. He never forgets us. He meets all of our needs. Jesus multiplies the loaves and fish to meet the needs of more than five thousand people until they were satisfied and there still was enough left over that each disciple returned with a basketful!

In these interesting times, remember that we are not alone in a desolate place. Jesus is here with us as He has promised to be with us always (Matthew 28:20). He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

As much as food occupies our time, we have a greater need. Jesus scolded Satan with these words from Deuteronomy, "Man does not live by bread alone." (Matthew 4:4).

We need the "Bread of Life," Jesus himself. Our earthly life will end. No amount of food will prevent it. Jesus offers us life in paradise with Him forever. There the Tree of Life grows and produces its fruit and its leaves for the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:2).

During interesting times and always, cast all your cares on Him for He cares for you (1 Peter 5:7).

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

God's richest blessings to you in Christ.

**L** Father, we know that Your steadfast love and mercy are forever, but our faith is daily tested and tempted. Give us strength and endurance, that we may not despair but have confidence in Your sufficient grace.

**C** Amen.

**L** Father, we are daily and richly surrounded with Your love and care. Grant us eyes to see Your mercies new every morning and grateful hearts, that what we have received we may share with those in need.

**C** Amen.

**L** Almighty God, in this time of national distress and distrust, give our leaders wisdom for the challenges ahead. Send Your holy angels to watch over all of our loved ones, especially those who live in distant places. Protect all who attend to our needs during this time of national emergency and pandemic.

**C** Amen.

**C** 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.

**C** 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.



1 Now thank we all our God With hearts and hands and voic - es,  
2 Oh, may this boun-teous God Through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God The Fa - ther now be giv - en,



Who won-drous things has done, In whom His world re - joic - es;  
With ev - er joy - ful hearts And bless - ed peace to cheer us  
The Son, and Him who reigns With them in high - est heav - en,



Who from our moth - ers' arms Has blest us on our way  
And keep us in His grace And guide us when per - plexed  
The one e - ter - nal God, Whom earth and heav'n a - dore;



With count-less gifts of love And still is ours to - day.  
And free us from all ills In this world and the next!  
For thus it was, is now, And shall be ev - er - more.

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**Service Notes:**

One person may serve as Leader or this may be shared with a number of individuals.

Read one or more of the lessons. Hymns may be sung or read. Use as much or little of this service as you would like.

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# Enhancing Your Worship

## Meditating on God's Word and Works

I will meditate on your wondrous works. Psalm 119:27  
My eyes are awake through the night watches,  
That I may meditate on Your word. Psalm 119:148 NKJV

### The Week of the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

#### August 2 – August 8

#### Introduction

Most modern forms of mediation turn a person inward. Biblical meditation turns a person outward toward what God has said and done especially what He has said and done through Jesus for our salvation.

Each Sunday has its own special theme directing us to meditate on God's word and actions. This theme is found in the Propers of the Day (the parts of the service that change week to week). From Advent through the Easter season these themes focus our attention on the life of Jesus from His birth to His death and resurrection. There is always much more in the propers than can be covered in any Sunday service. God willing, I will use the propers for Sunday to provide you with a devotion each day to help you mediate on what God has done for you.

#### Monday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** Amen.

**Introit** Psalm 105:39–43; antiphon 105:1

- L** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!
- C** **He spread a cloud for a covering,  
and fire to give light by night.**
- L** They asked, and he brought quail,  
and gave them bread from heaven in abundance.
- C** **He opened the rock, and water gushed out;  
it flowed through the desert like a river.**
- L** For he remembered his holy promise,  
and Abraham, his servant.
- C** **So he brought his people out with joy,  
his chosen ones with singing.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- L** Oh give thanks to the Lord; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!

The introit this week is again from Psalm 105. It points us to the Exodus, a time of desperation in the history of God's people. There is a Pharaoh who no longer remembers Joseph. The Children of Israel are enslaved by the Egyptians. There seems to be no hope. They cry out to God.

God sent them a deliverer. He sent them Moses. Still, as they fled Egypt, Pharaoh had a change of heart and came with His troops to recapture the Israelites.

But God intervened with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. In the wilderness of Sinai, the people were hungry and thirsty. But God had not forgotten them. He sent daily bread from heaven and quail from the sky. He opened the rock and water gushed out! It flowed in the desert like a river. God abundantly provided for all their needs, while they traveled to the Promised Land.

We are no different. We were born into slavery to sin. God sent us a deliverer in the person of His own Son. He provides for all our needs. Moses faced hardship to deliver his people. Jesus went to the cross to deliver us.

Today, Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is leading us through the wilderness and trials of life. We have no worries because He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. When our journey is complete, we will enter the Promised Land of heaven and live with Him for all eternity.

**L** Let us pray. O Lord, grant that we would always give thanks and call upon your name in every circumstance. Let us make known your marvelous deeds to all peoples through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, ever one God world without end.

**C** Amen

## Tuesday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Verse** Psalm 78:25

**L** Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia. He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.

**L** Let us pray. 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.

**C** Amen.

Because of our sinful nature, we all face spiritual hurdles to overcome. One of these spiritual hurdles is a sense of entitlement to good things. We tend to believe that God, nature, and society owe us. Or we believe that we merit wealth, fame, and happiness. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Since the fall into sin, nature is not our friend. We work hard for our food but thorns and thistles grow up. Because of sin, we have become enemies of God, not His friend.

But in Jesus, all this has changed. Although we don't deserve goodness from God, because of His love for us, He sent His Son to be our Savior. All of this is out of pure grace. It is nothing that we earn or deserve.

God provides all that we need for our bodies and souls! Pause and thank God for life and salvation.

Prayer: 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.

## Wednesday

- L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

### Verse Psalm 78:25

- L** Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; Alleluia.  
**C** Alleluia. He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.

### Psalm 136:1–9

- L** <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- C** <sup>2</sup>Give thanks to the God of gods,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- L** <sup>3</sup>Give thanks to the Lord of lords,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** <sup>4</sup>to him who alone does great wonders,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- L** <sup>5</sup>to him who by understanding made the heavens,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** <sup>6</sup>to him who spread out the earth above the waters,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- L** <sup>7</sup>to him who made the great lights,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- C** <sup>8</sup>the sun to rule over the day,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- L** <sup>9</sup>the moon and stars to rule over the night,  
for his steadfast love endures forever;

This week our thoughts are directed to manna from heaven, the Feeding of the Five Thousand, and all of God's goodness. Psalm 136 leads us to the proper response to all of God's goodness: Give thanks to the Lord!

Why? His steadfast love, His mercy, His care, and concern last forever! The great God who loved and saved us has created the heavens and the earth. He put the sun, moon, and stars in their place.

More than all of that, He sent Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus' sacrifice on the cross opens up the kingdom of heaven to you and all believers!

Prayer: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever. Lord, grant that we would never fail to thank you for the gift of our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

## Thursday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Verse** Psalm 78:25

**L** Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia. He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.

## Isaiah 55:1–5

<sup>1</sup>“Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

<sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.

<sup>3</sup>Incline your ear, and come to me;  
hear, that your soul may live;  
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.

<sup>4</sup>Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know,  
and a nation that did not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.

Our bodies are made in a wonderful way. We know when we need nourishment and water because we become hungry and thirsty. We thank God that He has richly provided all that we need to support this body and life.

Our souls also become hungry and thirsty. Our souls need spiritual nourishment and the water of life. The greatest wealth in the world could never buy this spiritual nourishment. No great deed could ever merit it. But God provides it to us, free of charge.

However, this does not mean there is no cost. It was purchased for us, not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-19).

We rejoice to come to God in Christ, our savior, and receive from Him all that our souls will ever need for time and eternity.

Prayer: O Lord God, thank You for the Bread and Water of life. Grant that we would always turn to Your holy word to learn of our Savior, Jesus and so nourish our souls. Amen.

## Friday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Verse** Psalm 78:25

**L** Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia. He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.

## Romans 9:1–5

<sup>1</sup>I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—<sup>2</sup>that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. <sup>5</sup>To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen.

You may have noticed that our epistle lessons have been a semi-continuous reading of the Book of Romans. Last week we were in chapter 8. This week we begin chapter 9. For your personal devotions, you may want to read the entire Book of Romans.

The Apostle Paul was a passionate man. He was zealous for God and His truth. At first, this led him to persecute the followers of Jesus. However, Jesus had a different plan for him. On the road to Damascus, Paul (who as then named Saul) had a personal encounter with Jesus. Jesus asked him this question, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?” From that day forward, Paul turned his passion from persecuting Christians to telling everyone about salvation in Christ. He became the greatest missionary of all time.

However, he had one great disappointment. His kinsmen, the Jewish people, often rejected salvation through faith in Christ. This caused him great sorrow and anguish in his heart. He so longed for them to share in the joy of salvation through faith and receive the gift of eternal life. If it were possible, he would even be willing to give up his own salvation so that they would believe.

Let us, with Paul, remember just how valuable our faith in Christ is and how wonderful is the gift of salvation and eternal life.

Prayer: O God, thank you for the gift of faith and eternal life. Grant us the same zeal and love for our neighbors as Paul expressed for his kinsmen; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Saturday

**L** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**Gradual** Romans 11:33, 36

**L** Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

**C** For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be glory forever. Amen.

**Verse** Psalm 78:25

**L** Alleluia. Man ate of the bread of the angels; Alleluia.

**C** Alleluia. He sent them food in abundance. Alleluia.

In the wilderness, God gave His people daily bread from heaven in the form of manna. God still provides daily bread for us. He provides the sun and the rain. He provides farmers and harvesters. He provides truckers and grocers. He provides us with all that we need to support our bodies and life.

More than that, He provides heavenly food, the very Bread of Life, in the person of Jesus. Whoever eats this Bread of Life will never hunger again for we will live with Him for all eternity.

*Give us today our daily bread.*

*What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

*What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Prayer:

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

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