

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Old Testament Reading: *Exodus 16:2-21*

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them, "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily." So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, "At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?" And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD." Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'" And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. And the LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'" In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: 'Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.'" And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. And Moses said to them, "Let no one leave any of it over till the morning." But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

Epistle: *Acts 2:41-47*

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Holy Gospel: *John 6:1-15*

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

✠ ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

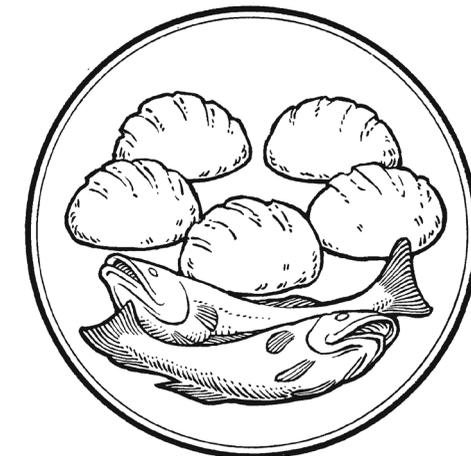
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✠ The Lord Feeds His People ✠

The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47). So it is that God's people "shall not hunger or thirst" (Is. 49:8–13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, Year of Our ✠ Lord 2023

COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT: Communion is offered today for those who: (1) repent of their sins, (2) believe in Jesus as their Savior, (3) believe that with the bread and the wine Christ gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and (4) desire to amend their sinful ways with the help of the Holy Spirit. We also believe that Holy Communion is a fellowship meal with those of the same confession of faith: therefore, we ask that those **NOT** of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the American Association of Lutheran Churches, or Lutheran Church Canada **please speak with the Pastor before communing.**

Introit (*Sing to Tune H*)



☞ Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,*

all you who | love her;

that you may nurse and be | satisfied*

from her con- | soling breast.

I was glad when they | said to me,*

“Let us go to the house | of the Lord!”

Our feet have been | standing*

within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!

Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!*

May they be secure who | love you!

For my brothers and com- | panions’ sake*

I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”

(Sing Gloria Patri as printed on p. 186)

Prayers of the Church

℟ Lord God, uphold in mercy all authorities, especially parents and the civil servants of our nation. Strengthen our homes, and keep families firm in the Christian faith. Preserve our nation from wickedness, and uphold order and justice for a peaceful life. Lord, in Your mercy,

☞ Hear our prayer.

℟ Lord God, Creator of the waters above, receive our thanksgiving for Holy Baptism, whereby You have united Jew and Gentile in the death and resurrection of Your Son. Enliven our confidence in this gracious gift, that we may continue together in its comfort and power. Lord, in Your mercy,

☞ Hear our prayer.

℟ Lord God, Your heavenly care extends to all Your children, especially those in depth of need. [*Look in kindness upon _____.*] Let them find sustaining food for body and soul and such healing as Your gracious will provides. Lord, in Your mercy,

☞ Hear our prayer.

℟ Heavenly Father, Your Son multiplied bread and fish for thousands, showing Himself to be the Creator and Giver of every good gift. Multiply the gifts of body and soul You provide from Your gracious hand, and cause us to receive Your benefits with thanksgiving; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Divine Service

Setting Three



Preparation

Pastor’s Welcome

Announcements

(Please fill out Attendance Book)

Hymn of Invocation #440

Invocation/Absolution p.184

Word

Introit *Bulletin*

Kyrie p.186

Omit: ‘Gloria In Excelsis’ due to Lent

Collect of the Day p.189

Old Testament *Reverse*

Epistle *Reverse*

Omit: ‘Alleluia’ due to Lent

Holy Gospel *Reverse*

New Members (*1st Service*)

Nicene Creed (*2nd Service*) p.191

Hymn of the Day #743

Sermon

Offertory p. 192

Offering (*In back of the Sanctuary*)

Prayers *Bulletin*

Sacrament

Preface p.194

Distribution #625, #729

#918, #636,

Nunc Dimittis p.199

Benediction p.202

Departing Hymn #423