

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

John 6:1-15 & 19:23-30

Trinity Lutheran – Kearney, Missouri

March 17, 2010 – Wednesday of Lent IV



In the name of the Father, and of † the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. In the Lord's Prayer Jesus teaches us to pray to our Father in heaven that His name might be kept holy among us, that His kingdom would come to us, and that His will be done among us. As Luther reminds us, these things ought to be prayed for with all boldness and confidence as God's dear children. We also know from the teaching of Jesus that we are first to seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and that everything else will be taken care of. All these things God has promised to those who are His without any merit and worthiness. So why do you worry? Why are you anxious? After all, God's given you His name and His kingdom, and He's assured you His will is going to be accomplished. What else could you possibly need?

Well, what about daily bread? Certainly that must be included in the things we need to support this body and life. And so God gives this also – even to the wicked. But we need to recognize this so that we receive this daily bread with thanksgiving. So, when you pray: "Give us this day our daily bread," you're praying that you might be able to see God as the Giver of these gifts so that you receive them with a thankful heart. When you pray for "daily bread," you're praying for all those things you need to support your body and life – food, drink, clothes, shoes, a house to live in, a bed to sleep in, a job to earn money to buy what you need, the joy of family, a devout spouse, devout children, a healthy economy – and that everyone in our country does their job well – from the farmer in the field, the baker in the bakery, the congress, and the President of the United States. For when the workers, the rulers, and the government are wicked, chaos results, and "daily bread" is hard to come by. The shelves in

the stores may soon be empty, the prices too high, and soon crime will skyrocket.

When you pray for "daily bread" you're simply asking that creation itself be maintained by God. It's a prayer for good weather and for peace in the world. It's a petition for protection against fire, flood, tornado, drought, pollution, pestilence, and hail. It's a prayer that God give you your health, self-control and a good reputation. It's a prayer that you be able to work, so that God can use you to provide for your family and open your heart to the poor. It's a prayer for good neighbors and good friends so they can help you in times of need – and so that you can enjoy them in times of plenty.

Jesus Himself received daily bread from His Father. He was given His flesh and blood from His mother, Mary, and as an Infant received His sustenance from her. After fasting 40 days in the desert, Satan came to tempt Him in His hunger to change rocks into bread. But even though He was starving, He patiently waited for His Father to open His hand and give Him His daily bread. And then there was the cross where, bloody and beaten, Jesus thirsts while His mother watched in horror as Her Son was dying unjustly on the Roman tree of torture. And yet in His death Jesus still provided "daily bread" for Her. "Woman, behold your son." And to John He said: "Behold your mother." Jesus provided for her even in His death by putting her into another family – always caring for His own – never putting Himself first.

Dear friends, though you may not always be able to see or feel His presence, there really is a God – Christ Jesus the Lord! He takes care of you with "daily bread," and gives you everything you need to sustain you, body and soul, unto eternal life. And just look at what you have – what you've accumulated. All of it is a

gift from Him – to you – and all for your benefit. With Jesus, you see, there's always more. Jesus is the very Bread come down from heaven – the Bread of Life – the true and living Bread that a sinner may eat of and live forever. On The Cross Jesus is the Living Loaf who gives and sustains your life freely by His Mount Calvary Death. And in the Lord's Supper He takes ordinary bread, and with His Word presses it into His service for you. Daily bread and the Bread of Life, Jesus, eaten together as one from the Altar – the Lord's dinner table – where He is the Host, the Butler, and the Meal

– bestowing His body and blood in you with the promise of sins forgiven. And the result is thanksgiving – Eucharist – which is why we pray at the close of this Meal: “We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift.” We recognize that God has strengthened us for daily living, so that we might receive and eat our daily bread with thanksgiving. In the Name of Jesus. Amen.

And now that peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in that one true faith in Christ Jesus, unto life everlasting. Amen.