

THE LIVING
WORD
OF
PENTECOST

A DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

July 30 - August 5

SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

This Sunday's Gospel text, Matthew 14:13-21, contains a line the Church should be careful not to gloss over too quickly: "When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick."

Later that evening, the disciples, sensing it is getting late and that the crowd needs to eat, suggest that Jesus send them back home. But Jesus throws the ball back into the disciples' court by saying, "You give them something to eat." They reply, "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish." Jesus says, "Bring them here to me."

You will read the rest of that story this week. Suffice it to say, when we bring hungry people to Jesus they are fed, not just with daily bread, but with the Bread that gives eternal life.

For what do you hunger?

There is a kind of food the world has to offer. That type of bread never satisfies. It is the empty promise of life without God: approval, godless relationships, lust for money, pleasure, and even independence from God.

Jesus offers a kind of bread that deeply satisfies. It is a table abundantly overflowing with the life and love of God. His miracle of feeding the thousands is the fulfillment of a number of Old Testament passages you will read this week.

Isaiah 55:1-5 says, "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!" The Lord has always extended the gracious offer to humanity that we might come to him and be satisfied. The Gospel invitation is all over the pages of Scripture.

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21 says, "The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing." Who alone can satisfy the desires of every living thing? Only God can do that. Jesus is the Bread of Life.



So, I ask again: For what do you hunger?

Pay attention to this week's reading from Matthew 7:7-11: "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." The Lord is not holding out on you. You might be hungry because the bread you have been eating is the world's bread that cannot satisfy. But your God, the Lord Jesus, is drawing you to True Bread.

FOR reflection

Find a quiet place and allow these words to call to you:

Come. Ask. Seek. Knock.

The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

The Lord is good to (insert your name here and say it out loud).

Yes, friend, the Lord Jesus sees you and has compassion on you too.

For what do you really hunger? Find it this week in Jesus, the Bread of Life.





SCRIPTURE

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Thursday

Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 14:1-2; Philippians 4:10-15

Friday

Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 41:8-10; Romans 9:6-13

Saturday

Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:1-21; Matthew 7:7-11

Sunday

Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Isaiah 55:1-5; Romans 9:1-5; Matthew 14:13-21

Monday

Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 31:22-42; Romans 1:8-15

Tuesday

Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Genesis 32:3-21; Acts 2:37-47

Wednesday

Psalms 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 43:1-7; Matthew 15:32-39

Why do the daily readings begin on Thursday?

The daily readings for each week begin on Thursday and end on the following Wednesday. The Thursday through Saturday readings prepare the reader for the Sunday ahead. The Monday through Wednesday readings reflect on what was presented on Sunday.

The Morning Liturgy

Opening Scripture

O send out you light and your truth, that they may lead me,
and bring me unto your holy hill, and to your dwelling.

Psalm 43:3

Opening Prayer *(based on Psalm 51)*

Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not
your Holy Spirit from me. Give me the joy of your saving help
again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit. Glory 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.*

Scripture Reading *(read Psalm and Gospel text here)*

Period of Silence

Confessing Our Faith *(Apostles' Creed)*

The Lord's Prayer

The Collect *(Proper 13)*

*Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend
your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety
without your help, protect and govern it always by your
goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever
and ever.*

Amen.

A Midday Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. *Amen.*

An Early Evening Prayer

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

A Bedtime Confession and Prayer

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep, we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, we have offended against thy holy laws, we have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, spare thou those who confess their faults, restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord; and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. *Amen.*

Visit this place, O Lord, and drive far from it all snares of the enemy; let your holy angels dwell with us to preserve us in peace; and let your blessing be upon us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.





Image: The Baptism of The Holy Spirit | Artist: Rebecca Brogan | www.jtbarts.com