

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Christ Jesus, the Living Bread from Heaven, Feeds the Children of God



Joh. 6, 1–15.

Background: This Sunday we see a very generous God that works on behalf of all believers. Earlier this year, we heard the parable of the sower and his seed where he spread his seed throughout the world, even though some would fall in impossible to grow a crop land. This coming weekend, we see a God that brought a great into being in Egypt, even under torturous slavery and child genocide. In the Gospel, 5000 men and their

Jesus Feeds 5000 Karl Gottlob Schönher ca 1898

families are served all they can eat in a remote, isolated area from 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread after Christ blessed it and prayed to His Father. So much was served that 12 baskets were left over. So it is with God in our lives. He has called us (and all we know) by the Gospel, works faith in us, and then continues to work faith in us. In addition he provides His word and Sacraments to give us full assurance we will be living with him eternally.

The Lessons: Isaiah 55:1–5, Romans 9:1–5 (6–13), & Matthew 14:13–21

By the Gospel of *“the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever”* (Rom. 9:5), we are *“the children of God”* (Rom. 9:8), *“not because of works but because of him who calls”* (Rom. 9:11). Therefore, *“listen diligently”* and *“hear, that your soul may live.”* By His sacrificial death in His flesh and blood, He has made *“an everlasting covenant”* for us. Since He now calls us to Himself, we come to Him *“and eat what is good, and delight ... in rich food”* (Is. 55:2–3). He has come with divine compassion to save us from sin and death and to feed us with Himself. As our Lord Jesus once took bread, *“said a blessing,”* broke the loaves, *“and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds”* (Matt. 14:18–19), He also now takes bread, blesses it by His Word to be His very body, and distributes it to His Church by the hand of His called and ordained servants. Just as *“they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces,”* there is more than enough for His whole Church to eat and to be satisfied (Matt. 14:20).