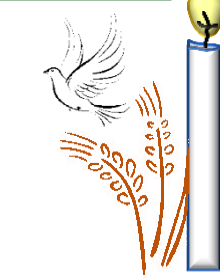




they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." John 6:19-20



SONG

✠ INTRODUCTION ✠

The psalms speak of God as the one who feeds humanity: You open wide your hand, O God, and give us food in every season. The psalmist implies that humans have physical and spiritual hungers, hungers that will be satisfied only by God. In Christ, God satisfies our thirst with living waters and feeds us with living bread. These images speak of our desire for communion with the one who is greater than our frailty and fears. They are biblical images of Christ's presence among us in the waters of baptism and the bread and cup of the eucharist.

✠ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ✠

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Reconciling God,

C **you seek peace and unity among us, but too often we choose walls of isolation. You seek to be one with your creation, but we turn away your loving Spirit. In your forgiving love, break down the barriers we create, that we might see more clearly your love for us, be reconciled with our neighbor, and trust more deeply your promise of eternal life. Amen**

P We who once were far off have been brought near to God through the cross of Jesus Christ. May almighty God grant you grace to forgive one another as God in Christ has forgiven you.

C **Amen**

✠ GREETING ✠

P The steadfast love of God, the life of Jesus Christ, and the growth of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY ✠

P O God, your ears are open always to the prayers of your servants. Open our hearts and minds to you, that we may live in harmony with your will and receive the gifts of your Spirit; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**



✠ **FIRST READING: 2 Kings 4:42-44** ✠

Today's reading is part of a larger section (2 Kings 4:1--8:6) that presents the miracles of Elisha. Here the prophet asks that food be given to a hungry crowd. He trusts God, who says there shall be enough and even more.

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.' " ⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

✠ **PSALM: Psalm 145:10-19**

¹⁰All your works praise you, O LORD, and your faithful servants bless you.

¹¹They make known the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power;

¹²that the peoples may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

¹³Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

¹⁴The LORD is faithful in all his words and merciful in all his deeds.

¹⁵The LORD upholds all those who fall; he lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁶The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁷You open wide your hand and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

¹⁸The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving in all his works.

¹⁹The LORD is near to those who call upon him, to all who call upon him faithfully.

✠ **SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:14-21** ✠

Paul prays for the Christians to whom he writes, asking that God will grant them inner strength and spiritual power as they continue to grow in their understanding of the love of Christ.

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

✠ **GOSPEL: John 6:1-21**

In John's gospel, the miracles of Jesus are called "signs," because they reveal the true character of God. As such, they remain within the mystery of God and cannot be brought under human control.

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" ¹⁰Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus 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. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."



¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.



✠ CONFESSION OF FAITH ✠

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen



✠ THE PRAYERS ✠

P Growing in the soil of the Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who seek the richness of life in God.

A brief silence.

P God of plenty, provide the church with faithful and generous stewards who will share of their resources to carry out your mission in the world. Gracious God,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of fullness, help us to provide food and clothing, shelter and security for all the people of the world who live in places of famine and scarcity, that they may have enough of all they need for this life. Gracious God,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of abundance, look with compassion on children who are living in poverty, and provide for them from the richness of your mercy, that they may be strengthened to play and grow. Gracious God,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of good gifts, may we see your presence as we gather around tables of fellowship to enjoy friendship and the food that we eat together. Gracious God,

C **hear our prayer.**

P God of life, the riches of your glory are beyond our imagination. Hold the sick in your care. Grant peace to the dying and comfort to the grieving, and all for your love's sake. Gracious God,

C **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P God of eternity, around your throne saints and angels glory in your presence. Gracious God,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Hear us as we pray, living God, and in your mercy give us all good things, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

C **Amen**

✠ OFFERTORY PRAYER ✠

P Gracious God,

C **as grains of wheat are gathered for bread, and grapes together are poured out as wine, so may we be united in your presence through this sacrament of grace. Amen**



✝ INVITATION TO COMMUNION ✝

P This is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

C **Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

✝ PRAYER ✝

It is our duty and our delight, Lord God, to give you thanks and praise for all that you have done for the world. Our hearts are full of gratitude to you, because you loved the world so much that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him may not die but have eternal life.

We thank you that Jesus was born among us; that he lived our common life on earth; that he suffered and died for us; that he rose again, and that he is always present through the Holy Spirit. Remembering these things, we celebrate once again the supper of the Lord. We pray that despite our sins and doubts the Holy Spirit may transform what we are doing, so that as we eat the bread and drink the cup we may share the eternal life of the Christ. We thank you that we do not celebrate this supper alone, but in company with all your people, past, present, and to come. With them and all creation we praise you and say:

All: Holy, holy, holy, mighty Lord God, Everything makes your greatness known; We acknowledge it too.

✝ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ✝

The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way Jesus took the cup after supper, and said: "This cup is the new covenant sealed by my blood. Whenever you drink it, do this

in remembrance of me."

(DISTRIBUTION)

Take this and eat it; this is the body of Christ, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of him.

This cup is the covenant sealed BY Christ's blood, which was shed so that the sins of many might be forgiven. Drink from it.

(When all have partaken, prayer is offered as follows)

Lord God we praise and worship and adore you for the food we have received at this table. You have sent your Holy Spirit among us to make our eating and drinking here a memorial of our Lord Jesus Christ. May your Spirit help us tomorrow to make our living and working, our loving and doing and thinking, a memorial of him:

So that in the end, with the great company of the redeemed, we may eat and drink and be glad with him in the glory of the eternal kingdom. To him, with you our Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, may all that lives and breathes, the world and all creation, give glory, worship, and praise, now and forever.

✝ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER ✝

P O God, we thank you for the living bread that rains down from heaven. From this feast of love may we carry your eternal life as daily food for the well-being of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen**

1. 🎵 CLOSING SONG

BLESSING ✝

P May you be strengthened with the power of God, the love of Christ, and the help of the Holy Spirit.

✝ DISMISSAL ✝

P Go in peace to bear Christ's love to the world.

C **Thanks be to God.**