

DEVOTION FOR THE FIFTH WEDNESDAY OF EASTER

PSALM 41:11-17

As for you, O Lord, you will not restrain your mercy from me; your steadfast love and faithfulness will ever preserve me!

For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me!

Let those be put to shame and disappointed altogether who seek to snatch away my life; let those be turned back and brought to dishonour who desire my hurt!

Let those be appalled because of their shame who say to me, "Aha, Aha!"

But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who love your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

As for me, I am poor and needy, but the Lord takes thought for me. You are my help and my deliverer, do not delay, O my God!

*Glory be 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*

Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 23:23-44 *The day of atonement*

New Testament Reading: John 21:1-25 *Breakfast on the beach*

"BREAKFAST ON THE BEACH"

John 21:12

"Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast'."

In his gospel John tells how Jesus revealed Himself to His disciples, by making them breakfast. This was not the first time Jesus revealed Himself by preparing a meal. Jesus had previously fed groups of five and four thousand. God provides for all our needs of body and spirit. The Psalmist said, "*The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food in due season.*" In the wilderness Moses told the children of Israel, "*Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" Jesus fed His disciples breakfast on the beach, to show that He really had risen from the dead. He revealed Himself in this way, so that whenever they took a meal they would remember Him and His words, especially, "*I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever.*"

Christians have the custom of giving thanks before meals. One table blessing says, "Come Lord Jesus be our guest." But as this gospel shows, it is really Jesus who is the host and we who are His guests. In his Small Catechism, Doctor Martin Luther writes, "*He gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land and animals, and all I have. He daily and richly provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.*" Jesus feeds our spirits through His word in Scripture, Baptism and Communion. He has the words of eternal life. He satisfies our thirst for righteousness in the water of baptism. He nourishes, strengthens and preserves our faith, through the feast of His body and blood in Holy Communion. He does this so that we would be kept in the one true faith, share our faith with others, share in His resurrection to life everlasting and take our place in the great feast of life at His return.

"I COME, O SAVIOUR TO THY TABLE" CCLI #453681

**I come O Saviour to Thy table, for weak and weary is my soul;
Thou bread of life, alone art able to satisfy and make me whole.**

Refrain

Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood, be for my soul the highest good!

**Thy heart is filled with fervent yearning that sinners may salvation see;
Who, Lord, to Thee in faith are turning; so I, a sinner come to Thee. Refrain**

**Unworthy though I am, O Saviour, because I have a sinful heart,
Yet Thou, Thy Lamb wilt banish never, For Thou my faithful Shepherd art: Refrain**

**Weary am I and heavy laden, with sin my soul is sore oppressed;
Receive me graciously and gladden my heart, for I am now Thy guest. Refrain**

**What higher gift can we inherit? It is faith's bond and solid base;
It is the strength of heart and spirit, the covenant of hope and grace. Refrain**

PRAYER

Dearest Lord Jesus, on a hill outside Jerusalem you made atonement for our sin and for the sin of the whole world. That truly was the Day of Atonement, in which you fulfilled the sacrifices of the Covenant of Mount Sinai and made peace between your Father and the children of a fallen humanity. You visited your disciples in the forty days following your resurrection and showed that you were not a ghost or phantom. You let them touch you. You ate and drank with them. You prepared a meal for them on the beach. Each day you feed us through your word and show yourself alive. You have prepared a meal for us that we may see your real presence, be blessed with forgiveness and receive a foretaste of the feast to come in your Father's house. Grant that we may feast at your table, feast on your word and feast with you in paradise. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

THE CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BENEDICTION

John 20:21

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”