

JULY 29, 2018
TENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



God's abundance emerges from scarcity.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 6:1-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	2 Kings 4:42-44	Elisha feeds a hundred
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Wednesday	Exodus 24:1-18	The elders eat with God
Thursday	Mark 8:1-10	Jesus feeds the four thousand
Friday	Philippians 4:10-20	Christian generosity
Saturday	Psalms 145:10-18	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" **John 6:9 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Gracious God, you do much more than we can ask or imagine. Thank you for surprising us with your generosity day after day. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Lord, the eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

A Blessing to Give:

May God who is at work within us and who accomplishes far more than all we can ask or imagine, give you peace. (Ephesians 3:20)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

Earth and All Stars!



CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- When have you wanted to make sure you got your fair share of something?
- What helps you to be generous instead of storing up for yourself what you have?
- We tend to fear not getting enough in life because we think there is a scarcity of resources. How does the feeding of the five thousand challenge that understanding?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Ephesians 3:14-21.

This text is a prayer for the people of God. It prays "that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love" (vv. 16b-17). Who prays for you that your faith may be strengthened? Who do you pray for that their faith may be strengthened? How do you see your faith strengthened and grounded in love? How does the word of God and Holy Spirit reach out to you? Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit through personal, trusted relationships. What relationships encourage you and your faith?

Pray: Almighty God, you nourish our faith through the life, faith, and prayers of others. Come Holy Spirit, help me to receive your life-giving word and to support others in their journey of faith. Amen.

SERVICE



Jesus uses a boy's modest source of food to feed a huge crowd—at that time, barley was not the best bread (John 6:1-21). Consider what you have to offer the world's needs. Perhaps you have talents and skills that serve others. Maybe you have possessions that can be shared with others. Identify something that God has given you and make it a gift to the needs of others. For example, give away a toy; donate money to a cause; or bake bread and give it to a friend.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



In Ephesians 3:14, the author kneels in prayer. Kneeling is a largely overlooked posture of humility associated with prayer. This week take time to pray Psalm 145:10-18, and, if you are able, kneel as you pray. Add any other prayers you wish and end with the Lord's Prayer.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org