

Bread of Life

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church—Plymouth, NE
The Third Sunday after Epiphany Week of January 29, 2012

Theme: Jesus Appears to Show the Father's Love

Daily Scripture Readings

Monday – Luke 4:22-30; Isaiah 19:19-25
Wednesday – John 4:4-26
Friday – Romans 15:14-21; Jonah 3 and 4
Throughout the Week—Psalms 10-12

Tuesday – Ephesians 3:1-12; Acts 13:42-52
Thursday – John 4:27-42; Jonah 1 and 2
Saturday – Acts 15:7-12; Romans 11:13-22

Prayer of the Day for the Third Sunday after Epiphany:

Almighty God, you sent your Son to proclaim your kingdom and to teach with authority. Anoint us with the power of your Spirit that we, too, may bring good news to the afflicted, bind up the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to the captive; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn Verses of the Week "Oh, Blest the House, Whate'er Befall" (CW 506)

1. Oh, blest the house, whate'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!
A home that is not wholly his—How sad and poor and dark it is!
2. Oh, blest that house where faith you find, And all within have set their mind
To trust their God and serve Him still And do in all His holy will!
3. Oh, blest the parents who give heed Unto their children's foremost need
And weary not of care or cost! May none to them and heaven be lost!
4. Blest such a house, it prospers well, In peace and joy the parents dwell,
And in their children's lives is shown How richly God can bless His own.
5. Then here will I and mine today A solemn covenant make and say:
Though all the world forsake Thy Word, I and my house will serve the Lord!

Catechism for the Week- The First Commandment

You shall have no other Gods.

What does this mean?

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

(From the Large Catechism I.24-25) "But let this be said to the simple, that they may well note and remember the meaning of this commandment, namely, that we are to trust in God alone, and look to Him and expect from Him naught but good, as from one who gives us body, life, food, drink, nourishment, health, protection, peace, and all necessities of both temporal and eternal things. He also preserves us from misfortune, and if any evil befall us, delivers and rescues us, so that it is God alone (as has been sufficiently said) from whom we receive all good, and by whom we are delivered from all evil. Hence also, I think, we Germans from ancient times name God (more elegantly and appropriately than any other language) from the word *Good*. It is as though He were an eternal fountain that gushes forth abundantly nothing but what is good. And from that fountain flows forth all that is and is called good."

The Why in our Worship

Confession and Absolution—Reminded of our Baptism and of God's love in the invocation, we now approach Him. What else can we say as we approach Him than to confess who we are and what we have done and what we have left undone. Our confession is honest, knowing that God already knows our sin and our sins. Our confession is honest, knowing that it is good and right for us to openly admit our sins, confident of His forgiveness and mercy. After we tell God who and what we are in and of ourselves comes the Absolution: *God tells us* who and what we are in His Son, Jesus Christ. We may enter church as a doubting, sin-stained, and scared flock, but we leave reassured, confident, forgiven, and motivated by God's grace. See 1 John 1:8-10; James 5:16; Psalms 32 & 51; Matthew 16:19; Matthew 18:18; John 20:21-23;

Thoughts for the Week

Luther in a 1525 sermon on John 2: Since then marriage has the foundation and consolation that it is instituted by God and that God loves it, and that Christ himself so honors and comforts it, everybody ought to prize and esteem it, and the heart ought to be glad, that it is surely the state God loves and cheerfully endure every burden in it, even though the burdens be ten times heavier than they are. For this is the reason there is so much care and unpleasantness in marriage to the outward man, because everything that is God's Word and work, if it is to be blessed at all, must be distasteful, bitter and burdensome to the outward man. On this account marriage is a state that cultivates, and exercises faith in God and love to our neighbor by means of manifold cares, labors, unpleasantnesses, crosses and all kinds of adversities, that are to follow everything that is God's Word and work.

Martin Luther: "Let the wife make the husband glad to come home, and let him make her sorry to see him leave."

Prepare for Next Week's Worship: (Epiphany 4)

Lessons: 2 Kings 5:1-15; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 8:1-13 **Hymn of the Day:** CW 85

Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, Personal Prayers

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments; for faithful preaching and hearing of the Word.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the lonely and oppressed.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our community; for schools (remembering also our high schools, Martin Luther College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary).

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church in places we cannot go; for faithful distribution and reception of the Lord's Supper.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of Christ crucified; for spread of the Gospel throughout the world and our community; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are struggling or who have fallen away, for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive God's gifts in public worship.

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

Luther's Morning Prayer- In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer- In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Personal Prayers—(Remembering those in our congregation, your family and friends, prayers of intercession and prayers of thanksgiving).