

➤ ***Don't be afraid***

Call to Worship

We gather today to draw wisdom and courage from the One whose life and death and resurrection give us hope. In this time of worship, we draw together to wrestle God in prayer, as Jesus taught. Let us pray...

Prayer

On this day we step boldly – humbly – into God's presence, praying with our suffering Saviour as he taught us to pray:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

With voices around the world, we call: *Give bread!*

Give us today our daily bread: this day, O God, people are hungry – children lie down at night with empty stomachs. People everywhere search with broken hearts.

We are hungry for justice – mercy – peace and compassion.

We call out for daily bread, for daily needs: for water that flows pure from a mountain – for air that blows clean across the prairies – for foods planted, tended, harvested, and shared – for land and sky filled with life and renewal – for just governments – for homes that are places of rest and play – for families, friends, partners, and neighbours who walk with us – comfort us – love us...

Give people everywhere their living Bread, O God.

Holy One, we confess, that we have hoarded and misused the bread you so generously send. We have carelessly paved over places that are better suited for growing food and sustaining life; we have poisoned waters better used for drinking; we have polluted the air your creation breathes every day.

Forgive us, nurturing God, and give us open eyes to see the way of renewal. Give us open hands to share abundantly. Give us faith to know that you hold every day in your hands. O God forgive us. Amen

Words of Hope

Surely God is the eternal giver of bread, the One Source of abundant life. Come, feast freely in that grace. Today we open ourselves to the power of bread freely given in our lives and our world. We extend our hands in caring toward humanity giving thanks to our generous God.

Scripture **Exodus 16: 1-7a, 13-18**

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, *"I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days."*

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you shall know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you shall see the glory of the Lord, because he has heard your complaining against the Lord.

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat. This is what the Lord has commanded: *Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.*

The Israelites did so, some gathering more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, those who gathered much had nothing over, and those who gathered little had no shortage; they gathered as much as each of them needed.

John 6: 1-27

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When 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?"

He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

Jesus 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. Then 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. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost."

So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When 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."

When 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. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "*It is I; do not be afraid.*"

Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message *(sent as a separate file)*

➤ ***Come, know my joy, the Maker says***

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† Prayer

Holy One, you are our provider and sustainer. You transform our weary souls with your grace, wisdom and love. You bless us each day with glimpses of resurrection and the promise of new life – in signs of spring – in stories of kindness and perseverance during crisis. We give thanks for all of this and for your mercy as we bring our concerns today...

We pray for people who are struggling with illness, loneliness, grief or sadness – thinking especially of those whose lives have been redefined by COVID-19. We pray for those whose working life has been changed drastically by this pandemic – thinking of health care workers – those in the food supply chain – and all whose jobs have disappeared. May each life be touched by the power of resurrection and new hope.

We pray for people in the world who are victims of discrimination and acts of hatred – remembering especially those unjustly blamed for the outbreak of the pandemic. May your desire for justice be made known and lived out.

We pray for our congregation and all people of faith seeking to worship and remain hopeful in difficult times. May we all be granted freedom to praise without fear as we discover new ways to be faithful disciples.

We pray for our families, our friends and for ourselves. May each of us know the power of your compassion and promise. **Amen**

➤ *Wherever I may wander*

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Blessing

Go with faith, hope, and love, knowing that God hears our petitions. Let us recommit ourselves to hallowing God's name, doing God's will, bringing God's kingdom to earth. May we seek bread for those living near us – for those suffering and hungry around the world. May we never tire of working and praying for the daily bread that all humanity – all creation needs. And may God's will be done as the grace of the risen Christ – the love of God – and the nurturing community of the Spirit embrace us all. **Amen**

➤ *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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