

Faith Members,

As I write this, I look forward to the first ever Coronavirus mini-services on the 'morrow. The 9:00, 10:00, and 11:00 services are all full. We added a service at 12:00 noon, and it too is full. If anyone else would like to receive the Body & Blood of our Lord, you can still contact me to sign up and we'll add as many services as we need throughout the coming week.

I'm attaching to this e-mail tomorrow's sermon. Let me also pass along to you resources for devotions / services of the Word while you're at home ...

- *Lutheran Service Book* has several orders that can be helpful. There are the brief but thorough Daily Prayer services (p. 294-298), along with the prayer/Word services for morning and evening that we use at different times here at church: Matins / Vespers, Morning Prayer / Evening Prayer, and the Service of Compline (p. 219-259). There's also Responsive Prayer I & II (p. 282-287). And an additional resource, that many of us have already been using this season of Lent, is the Litany (p. 288).
- *Treasury of Daily Prayer* also contains all of the services listed above (see O-1 through O-60 in the center of the book), in addition to its daily devotional readings.
- "Worship Anew" (formerly called "Worship For Shut-Ins") is a great resource on t.v. for those who are not able to make it to church. It provides a reliably Lutheran way to continue worshipping on Sunday mornings, even while at home. See the following link for more information (<https://in.lcms.org/worship-from-home-with-worship-anew/>)

Please remember to keep a watch on our congregations' website (www.faithgreenfield.org) for all the latest information.

As a resource for tomorrow morning, the following are the Propers for the Divine Service for tomorrow: the 4th Sunday in Lent – Laetare (Rejoice!) ...

Collect of the Day:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning, and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16:2-21

And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, and the people of Israel said to them: "Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." Then the LORD said to Moses: "Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day's portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my Law or not. On

the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel: “At 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 grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” And Moses said: “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against Him--what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.” Then Moses said to Aaron: “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel: ‘Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your grumbling.’” And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. And the LORD said to Moses: “I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them: ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’” In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another: “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them: “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat. And Moses said to them: “Let no one leave any of it over till the morning.” But they did not listen to Moses. Some left part of it till the morning, and it bred worms and stank. And Moses was angry with them. Morning by morning they gathered it, each as much as he could eat; but when the sun grew hot, it melted.

Epistle: Galatians 4:21-31

Tell me, you who desire to be under the Law, do you not listen to the Law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband.” Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Gospel: John 6:1-15

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following Him, because they saw the signs that He was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat down with His disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up His eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming

toward Him, Jesus said to Philip: “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” He said this to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. Philip answered Him: “Two hundred denarii 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 for so many?” Jesus said: “Have the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then 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. And when they had eaten their fill, He told His disciples: “Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost.” So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that He had done, they said: “This is indeed the Prophet Who is to come into the world!” Perceiving then that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by Himself.

The Hymn of the Day for tomorrow is LSB #743: “Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

God’s peace be with you.

Yours In Christ,

Pastor O’Connor