

JULY 25, 2021
NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus has a power people long to follow.

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 one hundred
Tuesday	Ephesians 3:14-21	Christ's love for us
Wednesday	Titus 3:1-11	Maintain good deeds
Thursday	1 Peter 1:8-17	Suffering for doing right
Friday	Ephesians 2:1-10	From death to life
Saturday	Psalm 145:10-18	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. John 6:2 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty and living God, we thank you for the way you feed us, heal us, and care for us through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Just as you fed the five thousand on a hillside, we thank you for feeding us and caring for us today. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the God of abundance bless you with more than you can imagine. (Ephesians 3:20)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*There Is a Wideness in
God's Mercy*



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Tell or think about a time you have been glad to be part of a crowd.
- Have you ever been afraid when you were part of a large crowd? Explain.
- What are some reasons you like being part of the crowd that follows Jesus?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:1-21.

By the beginning of John 6, Jesus had taught, turned water into wine, healed, and challenged Jewish authorities. The throngs are growing and five thousand have followed him to a hillside. Jesus looks at them, sits them down on a large grassy area, and feeds them like a shepherd tending his flock. His actions remind people of what Elisha (2 Kings 4:42-44) did when he fed large crowds. Jesus being on a mountain side and having powers over the waters of the Sea of Galilee (v.19) reminds others of a role like Moses. It is clear that people are attracted to Jesus and he cares for them with a power that people long to see, long to touch, long to be with. That is the power that has been given to the church to speak and work for people today in Christ's name. Christ's power continues to be present today so that others may follow in the footsteps of the one who brings us healing, hope, and salvation. What have you experienced that makes you want to be a follower of Jesus?

Pray: **Dear Jesus, we thank you for coming into our world and our lives to care for us and to feed us with your love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus fed the five thousand from just five small loaves and two fish. We know that today in the world many people live with limited food and constant hunger. Give money or volunteer time at your local food bank or other organizations that help those in need of food. Make a list of ways you can support people who do not have enough food.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Paul prays for the people, *"I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name"* (Ephesians 3:14-15). Prayer is a way to practice our faith. Think or talk about different ways to pray (standing, sitting, folded hands, kneeling). This week practice kneeling for prayer.

Pray: **Dear God, I ask to be filled with your presence and to know the love of Christ that he may dwell in my heart forever and ever. Amen.**



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