

# Living the Lectionary – a weekly study of the Scriptures assigned for the coming Sunday. An opportunity to make the rhythms of the readings become a part of the rhythms of your life.

July 31/ Aug. 2, 2014      Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Thursdays at 10:00 AM, Saturday at 7:00 pm

Readings for 8th Sunday after Pentecost, August 3, 2014



Although the entire Psalm 136 is not listed for this week, it is included so that you can see, mark, (and “inwardly digest”) the structure as it is described in this footnote from the NIV Study Bible, 1985 edition.

“A liturgy of praise to the Lord as Creator and as Israel’s Redeemer. Its theme and many of its verses parallel much of Ps 135. Most likely a Levitical song leader led the recital, while the Levitical choir (1Ch 16:41; 2Ch 5:13; Ezr 3:11) or the worshipers (2 Ch 7:3,6; 20:21) responded with the refrain (see 106:1; 107:1, 118:1-4,29). This liturgy concludes the Great Hallel. Following the initial call to praise (vv. 1-3), the recital devotes six verses to God’s creation acts (vv. 4-9), six to his deliverance of Israel out of Egypt (vv. 10-15), one to the desert journey (v 16) and six to the conquest (vv. 17-22). The four concluding verses return to the same basic themes in reverse order: God’s action in history in behalf of his people (vv. 23-24), God’s action in the creation order (v 25) and a closing call to praise (26).”

**8th Sunday after Pentecost August 3, 2014 Green**  
**(7th Sunday after Trinity, Proper 13 [18])**

**Hymn of the Day LSB 642 (TLH 316)**  
**“O living Bread from Heaven”**

Catherine Winkworth returns as translator for this week’s hymn. As with last week’s hymn of the day, there are variations between the two hymnals. The TLH has 5 verses, not 4 and it’s verse 5 became verse 3. Each hymnal uses a different melody. The information at the bottom of each hymn (top in TLH) gives you information on texts, translators, tunes and related scriptures. Each has several useful indexes in the back of the hymnal.

**Isaiah 55:1-5** New International Version (NIV) (*next week –Job 38:4-18*)

55 “Come, all you who are thirsty,  
    come to the waters;  
and you who have no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without cost.  
<sup>2</sup> Why spend money on what is not bread,  
    and your labor on what does not satisfy?  
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,  
    and you will delight in the richest of fare.  
<sup>3</sup> Give ear and come to me;  
    listen, that you may live.  
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,  
    my faithful love promised to David.  
<sup>4</sup> See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a ruler and commander of the peoples.  
<sup>5</sup> Surely you will summon nations you know not,  
    and nations you do not know will come running  
to you,  
because of the LORD your God,  
    the Holy One of Israel,  
    for he has endowed you with splendor.”

**Psalm 136:1-9 (23-26)** (*Psalm 18:1-6 (7-16)*)

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good.

*His love endures forever.\**

<sup>2</sup> Give thanks to the God of gods.

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>3</sup> Give thanks to the Lord of lords:

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>4</sup> to him who alone does great wonders,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>5</sup> who by his understanding made the heavens,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>6</sup> who spread out the earth upon the waters,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>7</sup> who made the great lights—

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>8</sup> the sun to govern the day,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>9</sup> the moon and stars to govern the night;

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>10</sup> to him who struck down the firstborn of Egypt

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>11</sup> and brought Israel out from among them

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>12</sup> with a mighty hand and outstretched arm;

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>13</sup> to him who divided the Red Sea<sup>[a]</sup> asunder

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>14</sup> and brought Israel through the midst of it,

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>15</sup> but swept Pharaoh and his army into the Red Sea;

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>16</sup> to him who led his people through the wilderness;

*His love endures forever.*

<sup>17</sup> to him who struck down great kings,

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>18</sup> and killed mighty kings—

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>19</sup> Sihon king of the Amorites

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>20</sup> and Og king of Bashan—

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>21</sup> and gave their land as an inheritance,

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>22</sup> an inheritance to his servant Israel.

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>23</sup> He remembered us in our low estate

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>24</sup> and freed us from our enemies.

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>25</sup> He gives food to every creature.

***His love endures forever.***

<sup>26</sup> Give thanks to the God of heaven.

***His love endures forever.***

**\* Alternate translations for “His love endures forever”**

”for his steadfast love endures forever” – RSV, NRSV, ESV

“ for his steadfast love endures for ever “ – NASB

“for his mercy endureth for ever” – KJV

“For His mercy *endures* forever” – NKJV

“His love is eternal: -Good News Translation

“his loving-kindness continues forever” – Living Bible

**Romans 9:1-5 (6-13) (Romans 10:5-17)****Paul's Anguish Over Israel**

9 I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—  
<sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, <sup>4</sup>the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup>Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!<sup>[a]</sup> Amen.

***(God's Sovereign Choice***

<sup>6</sup>*It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. <sup>7</sup>Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>8</sup>In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. <sup>9</sup>For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."<sup>[c]</sup>*

<sup>10</sup>*Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac.*

<sup>11</sup>*Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: <sup>12</sup>not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger."<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."<sup>[e]</sup>*

**Footnotes:**

- a. [Romans 9:5](#) Or Messiah, who is over all. God be forever praised! Or Messiah. God who is over all be forever praised!
- b. [Romans 9:7](#) Gen. 21:12
- c. [Romans 9:9](#) Gen. 18:10,14
- d. [Romans 9:12](#) Gen. 25:23
- e. [Romans 9:13](#) Mal. 1:2,3

**Matthew 14:13-21 (Matthew 14:22-33)**



**Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand**

<sup>13</sup> When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

<sup>15</sup> As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

<sup>17</sup> “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

<sup>18</sup> “Bring them here to me,” he said. <sup>19</sup> And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. <sup>20</sup> They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. <sup>21</sup> The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

“**Feeding the multitude** is the combined term used to refer to two separate miracles of Jesus in the Gospels.

The First Feeding Miracle, "**The Feeding of the 5,000**" is the only miracle (apart from the resurrection) which is present in all four canonical Gospels: [Matthew 14:13-21](#), [Mark 6:31-44](#), [Luke 9:10-17](#) and [John 6:5-15](#). The second miracle, "**The Feeding of the 4,000**" is reported by [Mark 8:1-9](#) and [Matthew 15:32-39](#) but not by Luke or John. This miracle is also known as the **miracle of the seven loaves and fish**, although it is more usually known as the 'miracle of the five loaves and fish.'" [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

## “**Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes**

Tranquil Tabgha, on the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee, is best known for Christ’s miraculous **multiplication** of loaves and fish to feed a multitude. But it is also remembered for Jesus’ third appearance to his disciples after his Resurrection, when he tested and commissioned **St Peter** as leader of his Church.

Two churches commemorate these events, and pilgrims find the place a **serene** location for meditation, prayer and study.

Tabgha is at the foot of the Mount of Beatitudes, about 3km south-west of Capernaum. The name is an Arab mispronunciation of the Greek Heptapegon (meaning “seven springs”). Several warm sulphurous **springs** enter the lake here, attracting fish especially in winter.

This was a favourite spot for fishermen from nearby Capernaum, and its beach was familiar to Jesus and his disciples. It is easy to imagine Jesus speaking from a **boat** in one of the little bays, with crowds sitting around on the shore.

## Feeding followed beheading

According to chapter 14 of Matthew's Gospel, the miraculous **feeding** came after Jesus learnt that Herod Antipas had beheaded his cousin, John the Baptist.

Jesus "withdrew in a boat . . . to a deserted place by himself". Crowds followed and he had **compassion** on them, curing their sick.

In the evening he told the multitude — 5000 men, plus women and children — to sit on the grass. Then he took **five loaves and two fish**, "looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves . . . and the disciples gave them to the crowds". After they had eaten, the leftovers filled 12 baskets.

### Elegant mosaics from 4th century



#### *Loaves and fishes mosaic in Church of the Multiplication (James Emery)*

The modern **Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes** at Tabgha stands on the site of a 4th-century church, displaying Byzantine mosaic decorations that are among the most elegantly executed in the Holy Land.

The whole floor depicts flora and fauna of the area in **vibrant** colours — peacocks, cranes, cormorants, herons, doves, geese, ducks, a flamingo and a swan, as well as snakes, lotus flowers and oleanders.

But the best-known mosaic, on the floor near the altar, refers to the miracle the church commemorates. It shows a **basket of loaves** flanked by two Galilee mullet.

Beneath the altar is the **rock** on which it is believed Jesus placed the loaves and fish when he blessed them." [www.seetheholyland.net](http://www.seetheholyland.net)