



Hunger Catechism: Daily Bread

BIG IDEA: “Give us this day our daily bread”: A world of abundance | **Reading:** John 6:32–35

Purpose

This lesson discusses the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer, Martin Luther’s interpretation, and how we can live out this statement with our neighbor. It also covers how hunger and poverty directly relate to the Lord’s Prayer, as well as how we are called to create communities where all are fed.

Commandment and focus

FOURTH PETITION OF THE LORD’S PRAYER: Give us this day our daily bread.

FOCUS QUESTION: How are we called to live, as people of faith, in a world of abundance?

Luther’s lens *(Small Catechism)*

“God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.”

Luther’s explanation *(Large Catechism)*

“Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.”

Going further

We recite this line every week at church, “Give us this day our daily bread.” But what is “daily bread?” As you can see in Luther’s explanation, we are fed by more than just physical food.

QUESTION: What unexpected things does Luther include in his list of “daily bread”? Why are each of these important for our daily lives?

When we pray for our “daily bread,” we trust that God has provided everything we need and that God has given us enough for everyone. One way to think about this is as “God’s abundance.” Abundance means more than enough. Often, it’s easy to think that there isn’t enough for everyone and that if one person gains another person must lose. This is called scarcity. As Christians, we are called to respond to claims of scarcity by preaching God’s abundance.

How would you act if you thought there weren’t enough basic necessities for everyone?

How would you act if you believed that God has provided our world with more than enough resources for everyone?



READING

JOHN 6:32–35

“Then Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.’ They said to him, ‘Sir, give us this bread always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.’”



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