

JULY 28, 2024  
TENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God shows us the abundant life through Jesus.*

### 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	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Generous giving
Thursday	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Blessings for obedience
Friday	Isaiah 30:18-22	God's promise to Zion
Saturday	Psalms 145:10-18	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*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.*  
**John 6:11 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Merciful God, give us generous hearts that reach out to others with compassion so that we may know and experience abundant life through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, we thank you for providing us with this food and opening your hand to satisfy the desire of all living things. In Christ's name we pray, amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with abundant life through Jesus Christ.



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**HYMN OF THE WEEK**   
*Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*



### 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:

- What would you do if you had invited three guests for dinner and instead, six showed up?
- Describe what an abundant life looks like. How do you experience an abundant life?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* John 6:1-21.

God's creation produces enough to feed the world. There are times when our own stewardship of God's bounty creates fear that we will not have enough to survive. Some go hungry and suffer poor health while others suffer poor health from consuming too much. In this reading, Jesus takes five loaves and two fish, gives thanks, and feeds five thousand people. He shows the power of giving thanks for God's abundance. This story is about more than gratitude and abundance. It is a sign—a divine example—of the unique character of Jesus that is also seen in Jesus walking on water and bringing the disciples to a safe shore (vv. 16-20). Jesus provides the abundant life and safe harbor because of who he is, the Word made flesh, the Son of God who came to save us. He is worthy of our trust and our praise.

*Discuss:* How does the story of the feeding of the five thousand help you understand God's abundance?

*Pray:* **Dear God, take away our fears and give us the joy of life in your presence that we may be filled with generous hearts through Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you be generous to others by sharing your resources?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Having enough food to eat is a God-given blessing. Providing a meal and enjoying it with others is a way to celebrate the God of abundance. This week prepare and share a meal with others. Begin the meal by sharing highs and lows with one another. Then start the meal with prayer: **Dear God, we give you thanks for the fruit of the earth and for the delight of joining with others to eat and be satisfied. We thank you for the joy of living in your presence through Jesus Christ, the one who fed the five thousand and gives us the abundant life. Amen.** After the meal pray the Lord's Prayer together.



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