

Lessons for The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026

Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 ~ *A psalm of thanks to God for his acts of creation and the preservation of his people.*

Isaiah 55:1-5 ~ *God's promise through David is like a banquet for those who cannot afford food.*

Romans 9:1-5 (6-13) ~ *God multiplied the offspring of Abraham by making them heirs of the Promise.*

Matthew 14:13-21 ~ *After healing the sick and teaching the crowd, Jesus fed them all abundantly.*

GATHERING THE TEXTS: God Feeds Body and Soul.

God's promise through David is like a banquet for those who cannot afford food. His mercy is not measured by what we want or do, but by His compassion. Even when Jesus went off by himself to grieve over John's death, his love for the crowds who followed him moved him to provide them abundant food for soul and body.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE: Lord Jesus, you fed the crowds with plenty and had even more left over! Help me recognize the plenty in your grace that I may be generous in sharing the leftovers of your love with others. Amen.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT: The security of God's grace insures every gift we invest in God's kingdom.

OFFERING PRAYER: O Lord, multiply these gifts of ours,
And let Your mercies fall like showers
To spread Your kingdom and Your reign
And tell the glory of Your name. Amen.

CONVICTION AND COMFORT: We invest so much of our time and effort into bankrupt living, as though we were starving and yet wasting our money on that which is not bread and our labor on that which does not fulfill life. God's promise stands behind His good gift so that in the giving, God multiplies His grace with a family name and feeds us bountifully with a nourishment for body and soul. We have become disciples to help in the distribution of food that satisfies and life that is filled to overflowing.

Questions to Consider: What increases the value of a loaf of bread?

- How can you buy food with no money? How is God's promise like a free banquet?
- Where does God find Children of Abraham?
- What was the food eaten by the multitude worth to them? How much did it cost?
- What do we have left over after we have feasted from God's abundant banquet?

Bonus on next page: A reflection on the cost of sin and the value of God's surprise gift

Early Morning Son Rise

He said that he would rise again; but who
would have believed it? Who, indeed, would think
that death, so cruelly strong and proud just two
short days before, could be brought low and sink
beneath the dark horizon left when Christ,
the Son of God, was laid inside the tomb?
His friends who watched him die would not have priced
the cost of sin that high. Now in their gloom
and grief they all forgot that he had said:
"I am the Resurrection and the Life."
They only knew their dearest friend was dead;
their hearts were hopeless, ransacked by the strife.
But this would be God's gracious, great surprise:
before the break of dawn the Son would rise!

-- March 20, 1992