



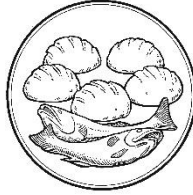
ABOUT THE PROPER

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

July 28, 2024



Meaningful Ministry

God Meets Our Need to Meet Others' Needs

King David explains, "The earth is the LORD's and everything in it" (Psalm 24:1). That word "everything" doesn't leave any wiggle room, does it? That word "everything" means that your home and all its furnishings, your vehicle and all that's in the trunk, your bank account, the money in your wallet, the wallet itself, and the pocket in which you carry your wallet *all* belong to God. Everything you have was given to you by your good and gracious Father in heaven. We need to understand that.

But it is just as important that we understand *why* God provides for our physical needs. As we have seen throughout this worship series, God has called us to serve him and others by sharing the good news of his great love for sinners. He asks us to reflect his love in meeting the physical and spiritual needs of others. Believers *want* to serve others in those ways. By providing for us, God meets our need to meet others' needs. This week Jesus promises that he will provide the resources necessary to do just that.

First Reading²

Exodus 16:1-15

People would still like it today if God gave everything temporal like manna from heaven. And if it happened they would behave no differently than the Israelites did: they would eat their fill and be not one bit fuller for it; they would still starve for their failure to see the true Bread from heaven. Note the point of God's generosity even in temporal bread: *Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.* That is always the point of God's invisible hand giving visible blessings, that we may see behind them nothing but the power of God and the grace of the Savior. Each day look at his various visible gifts and give thanks for them as evidence of his tender love for you and his compassion for every circumstance of your life with him, your God and Savior. For he sustains the body with the perishable, so that he may fill the soul with himself.

Second Reading²

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

God is generous to you so that he might be generous through you. Who will thank God today for his gifts through you? Everyone gets rich in this scheme of things; and God enjoys the rich thanksgiving of his people, who thank him for his gifts to them and the opportunities he gives for other people to benefit from his gifts through them.

Gospel²

Mark 6:35-44

Jesus creates a need so that he can satisfy it. It did not just suddenly occur to him that the thousands would be in danger since they had stayed with him so long. No, he let them stay until there was a problem. And then he solved the problem. He does that wondrous thing in our lives countless times. But often in rescuing he gives his disciples an opportunity to help him by serving those who were now in such obvious need. The boy shares. The great apostles become traffic cops and then waiters and then clean up men. And when it is all over Jesus makes sure that what *he* has done will not get in the way of his march to the cross! What are your opportunities to serve? What do you do with them? There is not a day on which we cannot pray for those in need and then ourselves become the Lord's agents through whom he at least in part answers our prayers. Do you have fish and bread? Can you help serve it if another has it to share?

Psalm of the Day⁴

Psalm 145 B

“I Will Praise Your Name Forever”

The Church sings Psalm 145 in services that celebrate God’s power and love demonstrated among his people.

Gospel Acclamation

Psalm 145:15,16

“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.”

Prayer of the Day

Heavenly Father, though we do not deserve your goodness, still you provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your gifts, give thanks for all your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

827 “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing” (Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676)

Church Year Season¹

Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

Colors & Symbolism

Green

Green is the color of life, refreshment, growth, and regeneration. Whereas the first half of the Church Year (the “Festival Half” or the “Half Year of Our Lord”) focused on the life of Christ during his earthly ministry, the emphasis for the second half (the “Non-Festival half” or the “Half Year of the Church”) shifts to the result of Christ’s work through the Word: the work of defining and creating faith, and inspiring its fruits. The theme of the Christian’s growth in faith (like healthy green plants) fills the season.

Nain Paraments

Sundays after Pentecost

Superfrontal: When Isaiah was called to be a prophet of the LORD, two seraphs (a class of angels) appeared and called out to one another, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Isaiah 6:3). The threefold repetition of the divine adjective emphasizes the infinite holiness of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Some congregations count the Sundays in this season of the Church Year as the Sundays after the festival of the Holy Trinity, calling it the “Trinity season,” or the “Sundays after Trinity.” That is why most paraments for this season feature symbols of the Holy Trinity.

Lectern antependium: The equilateral triangle is one of the oldest emblems of the Holy Trinity. The three equal sides and angles represent the equality, unity, and co-eternal nature of the three persons of the Trinity. Though they are three distinct persons, they are of one essence as one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). The three interwoven circles represent the three members of the Trinity and emphasize their unity and eternal nature; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are without beginning or end.

Pulpit antependium: At each point of the triangle (the significance of the triangle is explained above) is a nimbus, Latin for *cloud*. The nimbus appears as a circle, or a halo. In Christian artwork, nimbi surround the head of the Father (when he is depicted as a human), Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit (when he is depicted as a dove) to signify their glory and holiness. In artistic depictions of believers (saints), nimbi are placed around their heads to show that they have been made holy by God’s grace in Christ and through faith. The three fish in between the nimbi and that meet in the middle of the triangle signify Christians who are united to the Triune God by faith. Fish have come to represent the followers of Jesus because believers have been brought into the ship of God’s church through the efforts of those who proclaim Gospel (cf. “fishers of men” in Matthew 4:19).

¹ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

² Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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