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HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

Words from the Cross

Give us this day our daily bread. What does this mean? 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.

What is meant by daily bread? 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.

The Fourth Petition
From Luther's Small Catechism

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In his explanation of the fourth petition, Luther nails what Thanksgiving is about. I especially appreciate the fact that he mentions that "we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this," for therein lies the problem. If one were to characterize many of the people of our generation in a word it would be: "thankless." Not only do we forget how much we have in comparison to the people of the past, but we are blind to the needs that many around us still have. Added to this is the present spiritual darkness and ignorance of the Word of God, which is so prevalent, and one wonders why God would give anyone his daily bread, or anything else. Yet, as St. Matthew says: *He causes His sun to rise on the just and the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.* God is gracious in spite of the thanklessness of humanity. He sent his Son to die for all so that we might be justified by faith in Him. How can we do anything else but rejoice and give thanks, and say with David in Psalm 145: *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.* Or with St. Paul: *Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

So let us realize again all that we have and give thanks, and then give to others who have need in order that they too might come to know the goodness of our God and join us along with the whole chorus of heaven and earth in singing the praises of Him who died for us. To Him be the glory. Amen.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Skelton

*Give Us This Day
Our Daily Bread*

