

About the Readings on July 28, 2024

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Sunday, July 24–30

Lectionary 17

This week begins five Sundays with a focus on Christ as the bread of life. The particular emphasis on this Sunday might be that Christ walks on water toward us to feed us this Sunday.

[2 Kings 4:42-44](#)

For these four weeks, stories of miraculous feedings from the Old Testament complement the gospel reading from John 6. It is likely that the fourth evangelist had the Elisha story in mind: this account is the only one in which Jesus uses barley bread. For John, Jesus himself is the word of God.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

Having heard the story of Elisha's feeding miracle, we sing [Psalm 145:10-18](#), which praises the beneficence of God, whose kingdom is the one we seek and the one who provides food for every living thing. Verses 15-16 have become a common table prayer. As Justin Martyr said in the second century, whenever Christians eat, they begin by giving thanks to God.

[Ephesians 3:14-21](#)

At the table of holy communion, we are "filled with all the fullness of God." The saying goes, one is what one eats. (It is memorable in the German: *Man ist was Man isst.*) God's food strengthens us through the Spirit to live in faith and love.

[John 6:1-21](#)

Christ feeds the hungry with a full diet of bread and fish. Yet John's purpose is not to suggest that believers will be miraculously fed by a wondrous king. This prophet, this I Am, is himself all we need for life. It is as if this Sunday is Passover, our journey from death to life.

