



Laetare – John 6:1-15 – Rejoice!

The whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and ultimately against the Lord (Exodus 16:1-15). They were hungry. They would rather die in Egypt than in this accursed wilderness. At least they'd be full, or so they thought. In spite of their bent nature, and rebellion against the Lord and His servants; out of His great love and mercy, the Lord fed them. He was teaching them that man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.



This miraculous event in the history of God's people looks ahead to another miraculous event; a time when the Lord would become incarnate, and feed 5000 (John 6:1-15). The Old Testament people of Israel would rebel again and again, and finally suffer the horrible judgment of God. Carried off by the nations, they were no longer His "chosen nation." But God was creating a new people for Himself through His Son, Jesus.

The Lord, the bread of life, out of His great love and mercy, "came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man." He is God's "chosen nation;" all that Israel was supposed to be, wrapped up in the Word made flesh to dwell among us. He Himself would feed his people. By faith He would gather His Church, teaching them that man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

Of course, the people whom Jesus fed, along with His disciples, were amazed. "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" They said. "Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew..." But Jesus was not finished with them. Bread alone does not cause one to live eternally. God desires all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. Jesus withdrew to the mountain so that they *would* Him; follow Him to that place through which every Word from the mouth of God, Jesus Christ, will culminate in the forgiveness of sins and salvation for all; Calvary.

From the cross of Christ flows forth food for everlasting life:

- "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."
- "Jesus said to his mother: 'Woman, this is your son.' Then he said to the disciple: 'This is your mother.'"
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"
- "I thirst."
- "It is finished."
- "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

This everlasting food won on the cross of Christ is fed to His Church through His servants:

- "I forgive you your sins."
- "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
- "Take; eat. Take; drink. This is my body and blood, given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

These are the very words of Christ, and true bread from heaven. Rejoice in following Him and receiving His food.

We continue to be very busy teaching, planning, building, and organizing. God has bless His church here so richly. We hope you enjoy the pictures and they give you a sense of the work being accomplished. We are hoping to complete an upgrade on a well, and construct a new dorm in time for the 2020 seminary session. We thank you for your incredible support of our work, and we thank God even more-so for our partnership in the Gospel. Peace be with you.



Christ Ev. Lutheran Theological Seminary Library. Bookshelves, desks, and tables are being constructed.



Rev. Thompson with Rev. Yasseh & Rev. Bundor. We served as the faculty for the session.



Newly renovated dorm with Library. "VDMA" is on the Corner of each building.



Angie is assisting Rev. Yasseh & Rev. Bundor with a Computer.



March 2019 Seminary Class. Bibles, catechisms, and Books of Concord are their textbooks.



Seminary campus. Dorms on right; Library on left. We are hoping for a new dorm and up-graded well.

Please stay in contact w/us by email, doug.thompson@lcms.org or angela.thompson@lcms.org or by Facebook at: www.facebook.com/Meansofgrace

To support the LCMS through the work of Rev. Douglas & Angela Thompson, please send a tax-deductible gift to:

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