

(Matthew 6:25-30, NIV84)

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?"

At times I have entitled these devotions "Daily Bread". First and foremost, the "bread" we need to sustain body and soul is the spiritual "Bread" who comes down from heaven -- our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world" (John 6:33). What is more, Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). Now, I'm sure that in the history of the Christian church there have been those who have suffered physical hunger and physical thirst. Perhaps some have even starved to death or died of thirst. Still, what Jesus says is absolutely true: He is the One who sustains our bodies and souls. All who live and believe in Him will never die, but will merely pass from this vale of tears to life in heaven with Him.

As we look anxiously to our President, or to the WHO, or to the CDC, or "medical experts" to produce a solution to the COVID-19 crisis, we know that any successful solution ultimately will come from the hand of God, in His own perfect time and His own way. God forgive us for the times we have failed to recognize that fact and have placed false hope in man's ability to solve this problem.

Instead, let us look confidently to our risen Lord. He says to each of us: "Peace be with you." He will not let us down, but will bring about deliverance for His people.

Clothed and well fed along with you in Christ,  
Pastor Golm

P.S. If you haven't seen it already, there is a great Easter message and service that was live-streamed last night from the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary chapel. The sermon by Seminary President Earl Trepto was great. Follow the link below.

<https://www.facebook.com/welslutherans/videos/826516654537756/UzpfSTE2Nzg5Mj>

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April 13

Food from the Father's House

Give us this day our daily bread. Matthew 6:11

Perhaps you are familiar with Dr. Martin Luther's classic explanation of the above fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer: "God gives daily bread indeed without our prayer," he says, "also to all the wicked; but we pray in this petition that He would lead us to know it and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving."

In other words, we are to recognize the label of heaven on every piece of food we eat. It has come to us from our Father's hand. If that hand would ever withhold its blessing, all the scientific knowledge and skill of man could not produce a single slice of bread to satisfy our gnawing hunger. The formula, the ingredients, the various processes which go to make our "daily bread" are the property of our heavenly Father, who in love is eager to share them with us, his children.

How beautifully David expresses this thought in the 145th Psalm. In his mind's eye he sees a farmer going out early in the morning with a large sack filled to the top with feed. Before he reaches the chicken coop, he sees dozens of eager and hungry chickens coming, running and clucking toward him, every eye firmly fastened on him and on his bag of feed.

In a similar manner, he says, "The eyes of all wait upon thee, O Lord; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing."

Do we accept our food as a gift from our heavenly Father? Or do we accept it merely as a matter of course, perhaps even habitually grumbling because it is not always exactly to our liking? If so, we have every reason to pray God, for Jesus' sake, to forgive our sins of ingratitude, and to make us ever more grateful for the many blessings he has showered upon us.

Oh may we ne'er with thankless heart  
Forget from whom our blessings flow:  
Still, Lord, Thy heavenly grace impart,  
Still teach us what to Thee we owe.