

# Eastern Mission

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

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“And when they had found him on the other side of the sea, they said unto him, Rabbi, when camest thou hither? Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled. Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”

John 6:25-35

The time period on the church calendar between the Day of Pentecost and Advent is often referred to as “ordinary time”, because there are only a few major festivals (Holy Trinity Sunday and Christ the King Sunday). Ordinary is an unfortunate name, because it may tempt us to take the blessings of God for granted.

In the appointed Gospel readings during the season of Pentecost, we hear Jesus give sight to the blind, give hearing to the deaf, heal the lame, cast out demons and even raise the dead. In the sixth chapter of his Gospel, John records Jesus feeding of the five thousand. As the crowds follow after Him, Jesus reveals their true concern “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.” Even when Jesus encourages the people to believe in Him, they ask “...What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?” Even though Jesus had just fed the five thousand, the people saw this as ordinary. We often do the same. Sometimes we even take the cross for granted. Our God is anything but ordinary. In fact, He does the extra-ordinary, by sending His Son Jesus to cleanse us from sin with His precious blood. Through the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have new life in this world, a life that lasts unto eternity. Thanks be to God that He has blessed us and continues to bless us. His mercies are new every morning. We appreciate your fellowship in the Gospel, as we continue to serve our gracious and extra-ordinary God.

“I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ...”

Philippians 1:3-6

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Chuck Bylkas