

24So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. 25When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" 26Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 27Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal."

28Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" 29Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." 30So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? 31Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" 32Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. 33For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." 34They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." 35Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Give us this day our daily bread.

How many times have you prayed those words, hundreds of times, thousands of times?
As many times as days you have lived on this earth? More?

Give us this day our daily bread.

Today's bread, today.

Like manna covering the ground every morning, enough for one day, no more no less.

Not a winning of the lottery, enough bread to take care of every tomorrow I can imagine
but enough today for today.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Can you imagine living like that, from day to day? We call it poverty to live day to day
and not to be able to have a cushion for a week, or a month or a year.

Yet together we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread."

When Israel was hungry they did not pray but complained. The Lord had taken them
out of slavery, freed them from the life-draining labor of slavery, but soon they were
complaining, "*If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by
the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill
this whole assembly.*"

But the Lord answered their complaint: *“I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day.”*

Daily bread from the Lord.

If tomorrow you had to trust in God for your bread, would it be a terror? Is it a terror to walk through the wilderness depending on the Lord for what you need?

“I am the bread of life,” said Jesus. *“Whoever comes to me will never be hungry and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”*

Now we are talking of a different hunger altogether. Jesus is not simply a bread that will feed your stomach, but bread for all your deeper hungers. You hunger for love, and for peace, and for hope. You hunger for a place to belong, and for a sense that your life has meaning, a purpose. You hunger to make a difference. You hunger for a life beyond the life you have here on earth.

“I am the bread of life,” says Jesus.

Sometimes my life is all anxiety - anxiety over what I will have to eat tomorrow, anxiety over whether I am loved, whether I will get sick and die, anxiety over what will happen to those I love. Sometimes I wonder whether anything I do matters, really matters in any ultimate sense. Everything seems like it is only for a day, even faith, here today but maybe gone tomorrow.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Faith prays this prayer. Where there is no faith we pray for the lottery, or for some great success, or for an end to all anxiety. But faith prays for daily bread.

And God provides food for this day, and Jesus, the bread that satisfies all our hungers.

Even in suffering and pain, in hunger and thirst, in abandonment and poverty God provides food for this day and Jesus, the bread of life - for Jesus is the bread of God which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Here, this morning Jesus comes down to feed you: his body, his blood. Believe in him trust in him, hope in him and anxiety will no longer own you, making you its slave. No, anxiety will not be defeated in you for all time and eternity but today, this moment Jesus will be bread for your life. Continually feed on him, taste of him, and you will never be hungry, never be thirsty.

Give us this day, Lord, our daily bread.