

## Summary Session 3: Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

### Luke 11:3 – Give us each day our daily bread

- Active voice: *Keep on giving us the bread that we need each day*
- Context: Jesus teaching the disciples on the road to Jerusalem
  - Itinerant life (Lk 9:58; Mt 8:20)
  - Local friends supporting the mission e.g. Lazarus, Martha & Mary (Lk 10:38-42)
  - Jesus' followers distinct from Zealots (Lk 10:3-7)
  - Jesus sends out disciples without provisions or resources (Lk 9:3; Mk 6:8)
    - Need people who will welcome them each day & provide for them
    - Disciples have left everything including family/father
      - God as *abba*, their loving & caring father
      - Radical unconditional trust
- *Daily bread* – bread for the evening or the day to come
  - Rely on God to provide their basic need (Lk 11:5-8; 9-13; 12:29-30)
  - A new form of society
    - *Agape* – each asks what the other needs & helps accordingly
    - Our community, parish today?

### Matthew 6:11 – Give us today our daily bread

- Disciples to pray for each other's needs as well as their own: "us", "our"
- Mysterious & puzzling cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #2837*.
  - Greek: "*Ton arton epiousion*".
    - Lk's version (11:3) prays, "Give us each day our *epiousion* bread"
    - Mt (6:11) prays, "Keep giving us this day our *epiousion* bread."
      - *Epiousion* – word only occurs here & not in any Greek literature
        - ❖ 'Give us today our **'daily'** bread'?
        - ❖ Give us the bread that we need?
        - ❖ Syriac: 'the thing that helps us to flourish'.
- Divergence between Mt & Lk reflecting different aspects of Jesus' teaching
  - Mt: Give us the blessings of the coming kingdom – right now.
    - Give us today our daily bread
  - Lk: Give us every day our daily bread
- Daily bread recalls daily manna in the wilderness (Ex 16:16-22)
  - People had left behind the security of Egypt
  - To begin a life of mutual solidarity
  - God fed the people with manna – they were not to store it up!
    - The "*measure of the day on its day*"
    - Jesus' disciples were like Israel in the wilderness
    - The age to come would include bread & no famine.

### Eucharistic Overtones

- *Ton arton epiousion* = *panem supersubstantialem* (St. Jerome) = supersubstantial bread
  - Not ordinary bread
  - Jewish salvation history
  - Rich theological & spiritual symbolism for us today
    - We are God's new people on pilgrimage through history
    - We ask our heavenly Father to keep sustaining us every day
    - Praying *Our Father* we recognise our communion with one another as God's people
    - We work together to bring about God's kingdom of justice

- We focus on the present day & don't worry about tomorrow (Mt 6:34)
- Trusting confidence appropriate to children (Mt 6:25-34)
- We are a pilgrim Church (St Augustine; Vatican II LG 8)
  - Like ancient Israel in the desert, we need our daily bread.
  - *Give us each day* your presence in the Eucharist.

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May 2025