



Take-Home Page

Prayers and Rituals

A Table Blessing from the Small Catechism of Martin Luther

The children and the members of the household are to come devoutly to the table, fold their hands, and recite:

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living creature.

Then they are to recite the Lord's Prayer and the following prayer: Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

When your pastor says "The Lord be with you" in worship, practice returning his or her gesture by extending your hands back to the pastor as you respond, **And also with you.** In these words and gestures, the presiding minister and the assembly are showing that they know that Jesus is already present with them and in them.

After holy communion

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 72)

Bring the Bible Story Home

In John 6:1-14, a big crowd of people came to hear Jesus teach. When it was time for dinner no one had any food. One boy had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus blessed the food and gave it to all the people. Everyone ate and there was food left over. Later, in John 6:32-35, Jesus called himself the "bread of life."

- Serve bread at a family meal and, instead of slicing it ahead of time, pass it around the table and have each person break a piece from the common loaf.
- Ask your child to describe how holy communion is celebrated at your church. How is holy communion like what happened in the story of Jesus feeding the crowd?
- Does your church provide opportunities for kids to serve as communion assistants? If so, encourage your child to participate in communion assistant training the next

time it is offered, or speak with your pastor. Many kids are fully capable of serving as communion assistants, especially if they receive appropriate training and encouragement.



- Read some other feeding stories from the Bible such as Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 (Manna in the wilderness); 1 Kings 17:8-16 (God feeds Elijah and the widow); 1 Kings 19:4-8 (Elijah is given bread for his journey); 2 Kings 4:42-44 (Elisha feeds a hundred people); Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, and Luke 9:10-17 (Jesus feeds the multitude); Luke 24:13-35 (Supper at Emmaus). These references are also printed on page 32 of the *Fed and Forgiven Communion Handbook*.



Serve

Does your church provide opportunities for families to serve on the altar guild or to assist with communion setup and cleanup (sometimes called sacristans)? Kids love to help with these kinds of tasks. Consider taking on this responsibility as a family for a few weeks. If this is not possible in your setting, ask if it is possible to "shadow" the altar guild for a Sunday to learn what kinds of preparations are made for celebrating communion, how the leftover elements are disposed of, and how linens and vessels are cared for after the service.

