

Exodus 16:2-15

August 5, 2018

“God Commands – For You”

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

11th Sunday af. Pentecost

Rev. Brent Hartwig

Grace, mercy, and peace be unto you from God, our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen! Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

[Introduction] Then the Lord said to Moses,
“Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you...” (Ex 16:4).

[Commercial] Have you seen the commercial?
The one where the reporter asks, “What are you going to do next?”
following the win of a World Series, NBA finals, or the Super Bowl.
The obvious answer – “I’m going to Walt Disney World!”

And we just did! 24 of us traveled around
the Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Hollywood Studios, and Disney’s Animal Kingdom.

The 24 of us explored two new lands – Toy Story Land and Pandora –
lands that I have never visited before.

We played hard and we slept hard. We went to Walt Disney World!

[People of Israel] So people of Israel – that’s you!
Israel is reduced to Christ, and all in Christ are Israel!
So people of Israel, what are you going to do next?

You have been enslaved in Egypt for 430 years to the day (Ex 12:41).
You have been sent Moses who cried for the Lord, “Let my people go!”
You have been told “No” by Pharaoh over and over.

So people of Israel, what are you going to do next?

You have seen the plagues –
the blood flowing, the frogs inhabiting, the gnats pestering,
the flies bothering, the animals dying, the boils hurting,
the hail destroying, the locusts devouring, the darkness blinding.(Exodus 7-10)

So people of Israel, what are you going to do next?

You have roasted your year-old lamb without blemish.
You have painted the door frame with the blood.
You have heard the wailing throughout the night as the firstborn died (Ex 12:30).

So people of Israel, what are you going to do next?

You have left Egypt with the spoils,
with the gold and the silver and the clothing (Ex 12:35).
You have followed the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (Ex 13:22).
You have walked on the dry ground
with the wall of water to the right and to the left (Ex 14:22).
So people of Israel, what are you going to do next?

You have seen the Egyptians who pursued swept into the sea (Ex 14:27)
You have cried out...

“I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.
The Lord is my strength and my song,
and he has become my salvation;
this is my God, and I will praise him,
my father's God, and I will exalt him.” (Ex 15:1b-2)

So people of Israel, what are you going to do next?

[***Grumble***] The answer is clear – grumble!

*“Would that we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt,
when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full,
for you have brought us out into this wilderness
to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” (Ex 16:4)*

Grumble, grumble, grumble...

You stiff-necked people – the Lord has heard your grumbling!

When the price of gas is too high and when your miles per gallon are too low.
When loan interest rates are too high and when bank interest rates are too low.
When the cost of milk is too high and when the farmer's profits are too low.
We grumble, grumble, grumble...

When the cost of parking is too high
and when the number of parking spots is too low.

When the cost of cable TV is too high
and when the number of TV channels is too low.

When the number of food calories is too high
and when the opportunities to exercise are too low.

We grumble, grumble, grumble...

When we are bored because we have too much time...

When we are frantic because we have too little time...

We grumble, grumble, grumble...

We are worse than Goldie Locks...

For our porridge is too hot! Too cold! And never just right!

[***God commands the skies above***] Even so, the Lord says,
“Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you...” (Ex 16:4).

Rain bread! From heaven! You see it is God who commands the skies!

He commanded the skies above (Ps 78:23).

God causes it to rain and snow, for the wind to blow, and the stars to twinkle.

God commands the skies above.

God brought manna.

“And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, ‘What is it?’ For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat’” (Ex 16:14-15).

God commands the skies above.

AND God brought quail. ***God commands the skies above.***

God brought angels who filled the skies.

“Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger” (Lk 2:10-12).

God commands the skies above.

And there on Calvary’s hill.

“It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!’ And having said this he breathed his last. Now when the centurion saw what had taken place, he praised God, saying, ‘Certainly this man was innocent!’” (Lk 23:44-47).

And he was, except he took your sins and he took mine.

“Look the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (Jn 1:29).

“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The Son of God breathed his last while the skies were dark.

God commands the skies above.

AND As the darkness lifted from the skies, the morning of the 3rd day,
the women went to the tomb and found it empty.

Why are you looking here, Jesus is among the living (Lk 24:5).

God commands the skies above.

The skies were bright and filled with clouds on that day Christ returned to heaven.

“...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’ And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight” (Acts 1:8-9).

God commands the skies above.

[***Conclusion***]

Then the Lord said to Moses,

“Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you...” (Ex 16:4).

And he did. And he does. He still does today.

He gives you your daily bread.

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like (Small Catechism).

Even more than that, he gives us The Bread, the Bread of Life.

“The bread who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (Jn 6:33)

He gives us Jesus.

So see, you have nothing to grumble about.

For God says,

“Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven FOR YOU...” (Ex 16:4). AMEN!

“Now may the God of peace... equip you with everything good that you may do his will, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.” (Heb 13:20-21)
