



## Wednesday Prayer

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Feed, Heal and Care for the Community

**A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’”**

**2 Kings 4:42-43**

**Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.**

**John 6:3-6**

Sunday’s Gospel shares the very familiar story of the Loaves and Fishes – Jesus’ miracle of providing enough for the large crowd from a child’s five barley loaves and two fish. The Old Testament too, shares a story of one man’s gifts being enough for the whole community.

We are so often like the servant and like Philip, questioning how there is possibly enough for all. Enough food, enough time, enough resources, enough care in our communities. It’s a struggle as we see hungry people, systems broken, and deep divisions amongst us. How can we work toward the flourishing of all? Elisha said, “*Give it to the people*” and Jesus “*knew what he was going to do*” to feed the entire community.

One of the resources Cherish All Children has provided for many years is a [Connecting for Prevention Directory](#)\*. This directory is intended to encourage congregations to connect with organizations that serve youth who may be vulnerable to exploitation. These organizations can use our support – combining our time, resources, and care with their expertise in direct service to youth. We *can* share the nourishment God provides and work toward life-giving justice. We are invited to God’s table. And we are called to share this invitation.

**God of Abundance, you have invited us to a table overflowing with gifts for all to share. Help us to feed, heal and care for all in our communities as we continue the life-giving work of protecting children and the vulnerable among us. Amen.**

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Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.

\*Use this directory as a starting point in connecting with a local youth-serving organization. If outside of MN, consider creating your own local directory. If within MN, please share additional resources you know of with us! We’ll update the directory as we receive new information. Send to: [info@cherishallchildren.org](mailto:info@cherishallchildren.org)

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