



Daily Manna for Wednesday

July 21, 2021

Prepared for you by

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Second Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Every week in the post-communion prayer we hear an echo of the blessing conveyed in verse 20. This sentence, concluding in verse 21, sure sounds like a benediction or a conclusion to a letter. It even ends with “amen.” The connection or as I call it the echo in our weekly communion service is that our post-communion prayer reads, “Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask.” The idea in Ephesians of “abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine” or in the prayer “more than we could ever ask,” leads our spirits to imagine the fullness and abundance of God. The language of Ephesians is lavish and full of superlative description. When you read this letter, taking it to heart as if it is written to you, the hope of God’s blessing is unmistakable, expressed so richly you can feel the power and strength filling you spirit. This is a rich word for you, let it dwell in your hearts. And so, I really appreciate the writers of our seasonal prayers helping guide our weekly prayer focus in this way. Therefore, I join my prayer to that of the author of Ephesians, and I pray that your spirit may be filled with all the fullness of God.