

## Vores påske er nær

30. marts 2025, Gratiakirken & Martinskirken, LGJ

<https://www.vivit.dk/praediken/jensen/Joh%206.1-15%202025%20LGJ.htm>

YouTube, @Gratiakirken.

<https://youtu.be/IanPT4BWFxi>

**Evangelium:** Johannes 6,1-15: Derefter tog Jesus over til den anden side af Galilæas Sø, Tiberias Sø. En stor folkeskare fulgte ham, fordi de så de tegn, han gjorde ved at helbrede de syge. Men Jesus gik op på bjerget, og dér satte han sig sammen med sine disciple. Påsken, jødernes fest, var nær.

Da Jesus løftede blikket og så, at en stor skare kom hen imod ham, sagde han til Filip: "Hvor skal vi købe brød, så disse folk kan få noget at spise?" Men det sagde han for at sætte ham på prøve, for selv vidste han, hvad han ville gøre. Filip svarede ham: "Brød for to hundrede denarer slår ikke til, så de kan få bare en lille smule hver." En af hans disciple, Andreas, Simon Peters bror, sagde til ham: "Der er en lille dreng her, han har fem bygbrød og to fisk; men hvad er det til så mange?" Jesus sagde: "Få folk til at sætte sig." Der var meget græs på stedet. Mændene satte sig; de var omkring fem tusind. Så tog Jesus brødene, takkede og delte ud til dem, der sad der; på samme måde også af fiskene, så meget de ville have. Da de var blevet mætte, sagde han til sine disciple: "Saml de stykker sammen, som er tilovers, så intet går til spilde." Så samlede de dem sammen og fyldte tolv kurve med de stykker af de fem bygbrød, som var tilovers efter dem, der havde spist.

Da folk havde set det tegn, han havde gjort, sagde de: "Han er sandelig Profeten, som skal komme til verden." Jesus forstod nu, at de ville komme og tvinge ham med sig for at gøre ham til konge, og han trak sig atter tilbage til bjerget, helt alene.

Kære menighed. Nåde være med jer og fred fra Gud, vor Fader, og fra Jesus Kristus, vor frelser.

1.

Først vil vi lægge mærke til, at det, der skete for de 5000 mænd i ørkenen også skete med Guds folk på ørkenvandringen. Vi hørte i læsningen fra 5 Mosebog 8,1-3:

**Husk, hvordan Herren din Gud nu i fyrre år har ladet dig vandre i ørkenen, for at ydmyge dig og sætte dig på prøve, så han kunne få at vide, om du har i sinde at holde hans befalinger eller ej. Han ydmygede dig og lod dig sulte og gav dig manna at spise, som hverken du eller dine fædre kendte, for at lade dig**

## Our Easter is near

March 30, 2025, Martins Church. LGJ

YouTube, @Gratiakirken.

<https://youtu.be/IanPT4BWFxi>

**NKJ John 6:1-15:** After these things Jesus went over the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased. 3 And Jesus went up on the mountain, and there He sat with His disciples. 4 Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.

5 Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" 6 But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do. 7 Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little." 8 One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, 9 "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" 10 Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. 11 And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, "Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost." 13 Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.

14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world." 15 Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.

Dear congregation. Grace be with you and peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ our Savior.

1.

First, we will notice that what happened to the 5,000 men in the wilderness also happened to God's people on the desert after the Exodus at the time of Moses. We heard it in today's reading from Deuteronomy 8:1-3:

**Remember how the Lord your God has made you wander in the wilderness for forty years now, to humble you and to test you, that he might know whether you intend to keep his commandments or not. He humbled you and made you starve, and gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your fathers knew, to let you know that man does not live by bread**

*vide, at mennesket ikke lever af brød alene, men af alt, hvad der udgår af Herrens mund.*

Det blev de mindet om af Jesus. Ligesom Gud satte sit folk på prøve de 40 år i ørkenen, sådan satte Jesus sine disciple på prøve: ***Da Jesus løftede blikket og så, at en stor skare kom hen imod ham, sagde han til Filip: "Hvor skal vi købe brød, så disse folk kan få noget at spise?" Men det sagde han for at sætte ham på prøve, for selv vidste han, hvad han ville gøre.***

Gud sætter også os på prøve. Nogle gange ved at lade os sulte, mangle og lide ondt her i verden. Men gør Gud da det? Er Gud ikke god? Jo. Men han gør det i sin godhed. ***Han ydmygede dig og lod dig sulte og gav dig manna at spise, som hverken du eller dine fædre kendte, for at lade dig vide, at mennesket ikke lever af brød alene, men af alt, hvad der udgår af Herrens mund.***

Det må vi tage imod fra Guds gode hånd. Og når vi gør det, mærker vi, hvor meget vi har brug for at søge ham, høre om hans omsorg, høre, at han vil lede os også gennem døden. Nemlig ved Jesus, vor Frelser.

Johannes antyder dette, da han siger: ***"Påskan – jødernes fest – var nær!"*** Guds folk blev reddet fra slaveriet i Egypten i påskan. I den gudsdyrkelse, der blev indstiftet af Gud, fejrede de påske igen og igen. Påskelammet fulgte efter dem i ørkenen. Påskan var altid nær. De kunne fejre påske og modtage Guds tilgivelse sammen med manna fra himlen.

Påskan er også nær for os. Påskefesten om 3 søndage. Men også nær på en anden måde. Nemlig i dåben! For i dåben blev vi begravet med Jesus til døden for at vi skal leve med ham. Så nær er påskan! Så nær er frelsen. Du er ved troen og dåben fuldstændig forenet med Jesus, din Herre og Frelser!

Din opstandelse fra de døde er nær, når du møder modgang, og når du skal dø. Påskan er nær. Vor opstandelse fra de døde er nær, faktisk så nær, at vi bliver helt overvældede og får håb

2.

Og nu stiller Jesus disciplene og os et spørgsmål. ***"Hvor skal vi købe brød, så disse folk kan få noget at spise?"*** På den måde ønsker at vi nu er hos ham, mens underet sker – også hos os.

Se på mennesker i nød her i verden. Gud spørger: "Hvor skal de få noget at spise?" Han sætter os på prøve. Hvad vil du gøre? Hvad har du selv at bidrage med? Måske ikke så meget. Og hvad så? Kan du ikke hjælpe til mennesker i nød, hjælp til en nabo, hjælp til en ensom? Kan du ikke vise omsorg?

*alone, but by everything that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.*

They were reminded of this by Jesus. Just as God put His people to the test of the 40 years in the wilderness, so Jesus put His disciples to the test: ***When Jesus lifted up his eyes and saw a great crowd coming towards him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread that these people may have something to eat?" But he said that to put him to the test, because he himself knew what he was going to do.***

God also puts us to the test. Sometimes by letting us starve, lack and suffer evil in this world. But does God? Is God not good? Yes. But he does it in his goodness. ***He humbled you and made you starve, and gave you manna to eat, which neither you nor your fathers knew, to let you know that man does not live by bread alone, but by everything that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord.***

We must receive this from God's good hand. And when we do that, we feel how much we need to seek Him, hear about His care, hear that He will lead us through death as well. Namely, through Jesus, our Savior.

John hints at this when he says: ***"The Passover – a feast of the Jews - was near!"*** God's people was rescued from slavery in Egypt in the Passover. In the Worship instituted by God they celebrated Passover again and again. The Passover lamb followed them in the desert. The Passover was always near. They could celebrate Easter and receive God's forgiveness along with manna from Heaven.

Easter is also close for us. The Easter feast in 3 Sundays. But also near in another way. Namely, in baptism! For in baptism we were buried with Jesus unto death so that we might live with him. That's how close Easter is! That is how close salvation is. You are completely united by faith and baptism with Jesus, your Lord and Savior!

Your resurrection from the dead is near when you face adversity and when you are about to die. Easter is near. Our resurrection from the dead is near. In fact, so close that we are completely overwhelmed and live in hope.

2.

And now Jesus asks us a question: ***"Where are we going to buy bread so that these people can have something to eat?"*** In this way he wants us to join in the miracle so that it also happens with us.

Look at people in need in this world. God asks, "Where will they get something to eat?" He puts us to the test. What will you do? What do you have to contribute? Maybe not much. And then what? Can't you help people in need, help a neighbor, help a lonely person? Can't show care?

Hvis ikke Jesus spørger os, ser vi måske ikke de små kald i hverdagen til at tjene. Vi overser vore børn, overser vore forældre, overser vor ægtefælle, overser nogle i menigheden og i naboskabet. Og der står vi. Afsløret. Dømte! Skyldige!

Tag det 5. bud: *Du må ikke slå ihjel. Det vil sige: Vi skal frygte og elske Gud, så vi ikke volder vor næste nogen skade på hans liv eller tilføjer ham nogen lidelse, men hjælper ham og står ham bi i al legemlig nød.*

Kan vi ikke forstå dette lidt mildere? Er vi virkelig skyldige i overtrædelse af det 5. bud? Eller er der slet ikke noget håb for os, hvis vi har brød og andre sulter? Hvis vi undlader at hjælpe, hvor vi kunne? Svaret er: Nej. Hør i Tobits bog 4,16: *Del dit brød med den, der sulter, og dine klæder med den, der er nøgen. Giv alt, hvad du har tilovers, som almisser, min dreng, og gør det uden at vise misundelse. (Tob. 4:16 D92).* Og hør, hvad Herren siger ved Esajas: *Nej, den faste, jeg ønsker, er at løse ondskabens lænker og sprænge ågets bånd, at sætte de undertrykte i frihed, og bryde hvert åg; ja, at du deler dit brød med den sultne, giver husly til hjemløse stakler, at du har klæder til den nøgne og ikke vender ryggen til dine egne. (Es 58,6-7)*

Og Jesus udlægger også det 5. bud for os, at vi ikke må slå ihjel. Og han forklarer, at vi også er mordere, når vi optændes af vrede og bitterhed mod vor bror og ondt til ham og om ham. Er det i orden? Jesus svarer: Det fører dig ind under Guds dom. **Så står vi der og er skyldige.**

3.

Er der da noget håb for os? Hvad gør Jesus? Hvor er redningen? Redningen er, at påsken er nær. I påsken led Jesus stedfortrædende for os på korset. Det er vores redning. Han bar al synd. "Se Guds lam, som bærer verdens synd!" (Joh 1,29).

Men sammen med tilgivelsen, frikendelsen, frelsen i påsken er der også Guds daglige omsorg, som er ufortjent. Og det forkyndes også for os: ***En af hans disciple, Andreas, Simon Peters bror, sagde til ham: "Der er en lille dreng her, han har fem bygbrød og to fisk; men hvad er det til så mange?"***

Her er en gave, men Andreas siger straks: "Det nytter ikke." - Kan du ikke høre dig selv sige sådan: Hvad nytter det. Hvad nytter det, en lille dreng har med? Hvad nytter det, jeg har? Hvad nytter min opsparing i forbindelse med nødhjælp og ydre mission og kirkens arbejde? Hvad nytter det at bede? Hvad nytter det at tro på Gud, når han spørger, hvordan vi får livets brød i vores menighed om 5 eller 10 år? Hvad er det til så mange mennesker. Vi ser jo verden i nød. Hvad nytter det, hvis jeg bliver syg. ...

If Jesus does not ask us, we may not see the small callings in everyday life to serve. We overlook our children, overlook our parents, overlook our spouse, overlook some in the congregation and in the neighborhood. And there we are. Convicted! Guilty!

Take the 5th commandment: *Thou shalt not kill. That is, we must fear and love God, so that we do not cause our neighbor any harm to his life or cause him any suffering, but help him and stand by him in all bodily distress.*

Can we not understand this a little more mildly? Are we really guilty of transgression of the 5th commandment? Or is there no hope for us at all if we have bread and others are starving? If we fail to help where we could?

The answer is: No. Hear in Tobit 4:16: *Share your bread with the hungry, and your garments with the naked. Give all that you have left over as alms, my boy, and do it without showing envy. (Tob. 4:16, D92).* And hear what the Lord says through Isaiah: *No, the fast I want is to loosen the chains of wickedness, and to break the yoke, to set at liberty the oppressed, and to break every yoke; yes, that you share your bread with the hungry, that you give shelter to the homeless wretches, that you have clothes for the naked and that you do not turn your back on your own. (Isaiah 58:6-7)*

And Jesus also explains the 5th commandment to us, that you shall not kill. And he explains that we are also murderers when we are inflamed with anger and bitterness towards our brother and hurt towards him and about him. Is that okay? Jesus answers: No! It brings you under God's judgment. **Then we stand there and are guilty.**

3.

Is there any hope for us? What does Jesus do? Where's the rescue? The saving grace is that Easter is near. At Easter, Jesus suffered vicariously for us on the cross. That is our salvation. He bore all sin. "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29).

But along with the forgiveness, the acquittal, the salvation at Easter, there is also God's daily care, which is undeserved. And it is also preached to us: ***One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him: "There is a little boy here, he has five barley loaves and two fish; but what is it for so many?"***

Here is a gift, but Andrew immediately says: "It is no use." - Don't you hear yourself saying like this: What good is it? What good is it that a little boy brings? What good is what I have? What is the use of my savings in connection with emergency aid and foreign mission and the work of the your church in Denmark? What is the use of praying? What is the use of believing in God when He asks how we will get the bread of life in our

Når vi tænker og taler sådan, taler vi imod Guds godhed og omsorg, som om vi selv er Gud og skal sørge for det hele.

Og nu kommer det mest mærkelige: Jesus siger ikke: Få folk til at gå hjem, men **"Få folk til at sætte sig."** Det er lige det, der er brug for: at vi sætter os. At vi indser, at vi ikke kan udrette noget, men bare må vente på Guds gave til os. Og derefter rapporterer apostlen Johannes: **Mændene satte sig.** Mændene. Dem, som ellers smøger ærmerne op og siger: "Det her skal ordnes. Og det er os, der skal gøre det!" De satte sig. Det er et stort under, når mænd sætter sig ned og venter sig alt godt af Gud og ikke mener, at de selv skal klare det.

Sådan var det for Guds folk 40 år i ørkenen. De fik Manna fra himlen. De arbejdede ikke for maden. De modtog det fra Gud. De kunne gå ud og samle den sammen. Sådan også med os! Gud har givet os sit ord, og vi må sætte os og høre det. Høre at der er frelse. Høre, at der er håb. Høre, at påsken er nær. Høre, at han bar vore synder. Høre, at den uskyldige blev straffet for vore synder. Høre, at Jesus har opfyldt det 5. bud for os. Høre, at han endda selv blev dræbt, da Pilatus og jøderne dræbte den uskyldige. Og høre, at det også er os, der har dræbt Jesus, Guds Søn, med vore synder.

Og nu er vi ramt! Ramt af nåden. Ramt af tilgivelsen. Ramt af Guds kærlighed til mordere. Ramt af frelsen. Ramt af dåbens bad. Ramt af den hellige nadver. Ramt af Guds løfter. - Sådan er Gud. Sådan er evangeliet. Sådan er det at være kristen. Du er tilgivet og reddet. OG han kalder os til at tjene med de tusinde gaver, han har skænk et os.

4.

Gud sørgede for sit folk i ørkenen med mad. Det går hånd i hånd med Frelsen. For Gud sørger både for legeme og sjæl. Han, som gav os livet, holder os oppe dagligt. Og han har sagt, at vi må bede: *"Giv os i dag vort daglige brød, og forlad os vor skyld, som vi også forlader vore skyldnere."* Det er fordi han elsker sin skabning. Også når den er fortabt og fordømt.

Derfor kan vi ikke andet end dele vort brød med den sultne og tilgive hinanden, som Gud har tilgivet os.

Amen.

church in 5 or 10 years? What is it for so many people? We see the world in need. What good is it if I get sick? ...

When we think and speak like this, we speak against God's goodness and care, as if we ourselves were God and had to take care of everything.

And now comes the strangest part: Jesus does not say, "Make people go home," but **"Make people sit down."** That is exactly what is needed: that we sit down. We must realize that we cannot accomplish anything, but just have to wait for God's gift to us. And the apostle John reports: **So the men sat down.** Not "the people" but "the men!" Those who otherwise roll up their sleeves and say: now we have to fix this situation problem; and we are the ones to do it. They sat down. It is a great miracle when men sit down and expect all good things from God and do not think that they should do it themselves.

That was the case for Gods people during 40 years in the desert. They got Manna from heaven. They didn't work for the food. They received it from God. They could go out and collect it. We are blessed in the same way. God has given us His Word, and we must sit down and hear it. Hear what God has prepared for our salvation. Hear that there is hope. Hear that Easter is near. Hear that Christ bore our sins. Hear that the innocent was punished for our sins. Hear that Jesus has fulfilled the 5th commandment for us. Hear that he himself was even killed when Pilate and the Jews killed the innocent. And to hear that we killed Jesus, the Son of God with our sins.

And now we're hit! Struck by grace. Struck by forgiveness. Struck by God's love for murderers. Struck by salvation. Struck by the baptismal bath. Struck by Holy Communion. Struck by God's promises. - That's how God is. That is the Gospel. That's what it's like to be a Christian. You are forgiven and saved. And He calls us to serve with the thousand gifts He has bestowed upon us.

4.

God provided for His people in the wilderness with food. It goes hand in hand with forgiveness and salvation. For God provides for both body and soul. He who gave us life sustains us daily. And He has said that we must pray: *"Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors."* It is because He loves His creation. Even when it is lost and condemned.

Therefore we can't help but share our bread with the hungry and forgive one another, as God has forgiven us.

Amen.