

GOD'S NOURISHING OF THE HUNGRY

When the Holy One, blessed be He, gave the Torah to Israel, he gave it only in the form of wheat – for us to make flour from it, and flax – to make a garment from it. (Jewish Midrash)

The LORD let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your ancestors, so you might know that it is not by bread alone that people live, but by all that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.

(Deut 8: 3, cited by Jesus at Matt 3:4)

You give drink to every beast of the field... You raise grass for the cattle... The trees of the LORD drink their fill. (Psalm 104: 11, 14, 16)

Praise, the LORD, my soul. Alleluia! (Psalm 104: 35)

GOD, THE SHEPHERD (Psalm 23)

When you have eaten and are satisfied, you must bless the LORD your God, for the good land he has given you. (Deut 8:10)

(but see response: “They grumbled in their tents and did not listen to the **word** of the LORD” (Ps 106: 25)

Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down
and do not return there till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will achieving the end for which I sent it.

(Isaiah 55: 10-11)

God satisfied the thirsty, filled the hungry with good things. (Psalm 107: 9)

Passover celebrates “the gifts of divine sustenance in the wilderness (the quails and *manna*) and of divine wisdom (the Law) at Mount Sinai – a sustenance, therefore, of the body and the soul.”

(from A Passover Haggadah)

A PASSOVER PRAYER

Through God’s kindness, mercy, and compassion,
all existence is eternally sustained.
God is forever faithful.
Surpassing goodness fills all time and space.

JESUS' NOURISHING OF THE HUNGRY
and
OUR FEEDING OF THE HUNGRY
(woven together)
JESUS ACCOMPANIES US ON OUR JOURNEY

Etymologically, accompaniment, like *companion*, comes from the Latin words *cum panis*, "with bread," which implies the idea of sharing bread with, of sharing something that is essential to the life of another person. Accompaniment means not only sharing bread, but **being** bread for one another, sources of life and nourishment. A community of companions provides a welcoming home, becoming Bethlehem, a "house of bread."

And you, Bethlehem of Judah, you are by no means the least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you shall come a ruler who shall shepherd my people Israel. (Matt 2:6)

Feeding of five thousand: ...

YOU give them something to eat... (Matt 1: 13-21)

The tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to him, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." (Luke 15: 1-2)

I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink... Amen, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me. (Matthew 25: 35, 40)

A FEAST... Wedding at Cana (John 2: 1-12)
 ...the beginning of his signs (John 2: 11)

A SUPPER....

"I have greatly desired to eat this Passover with you... (Luke 22: 16)

"I have told you this that my joy may be in you and your joy may be full." (John 15: 11)

AND A BREAKFAST

When they cast their net "they were not able to pull it in because of the number of fish." (John 21: 6)

"Come, have breakfast." (John 21:12)

AN ABUNDANCE OF WINE, OF JOY, AND OF FISH!