

Food that Satisfies

Isaiah 55:1-5 (v.2)

Introduction

In **Isaiah 55**, God calls everyone to have their thirst quenched and their hunger satisfied on rich food that has no price. Let's explore what He's talking about here.

Salvation (v.3)

Is God talking about physical food and drink or is He talking about something else. When we read on and look at it in context, we see that He is talking about something else. He talks about *souls living* (v. 3), an *everlasting covenant* (v.3), and being *glorified by God* (v. 5). This is, of course, salvation, life everlasting in the glory of God. This salvation is free for us because Jesus already paid the price on the cross. We have life because of His death.

The Heavenly Banquet in Revelation

When we think of our salvation, we think of the eternal salvation of life forever with God. This is pictured for us as the heavenly banquet in **Revelation**.

"They Shall not Hunger or Thirst" (7:15-17)

(Read **Revelation 7:15-17**). John is telling us about the multitude before the throne in heaven. This is the Church triumphant. All the saints of all time are gathered around the throne, serving God. They will *hunger no more, neither thirst anymore* (v. 16) because *the Lamb will be their shepherd and will guide them to springs of living water* (v. 17).

Marriage Supper of the Lamb (19:6-9)

(Read **Revelation 19:6-9**). The Bride of Christ is the Church. On earth, she was poor, weak, and always in danger. Now, she is *clothed in white linen for the marriage supper of the Lamb* (v. 9).

Jesus Himself in John

Of course, the Lamb is Jesus Christ, and in thinking about this food and drink that is salvation, we might think of Christ Himself, our Savior.

"Come to Me All Who Thirst" (7:37-38)

In **John 7** we read (Read **John 7:37-39**). We see here the water that quenches all thirst is the Holy Spirit. Christ gives us His Spirit, so we won't dry up spiritually and die. The Holy Spirit is the Water of Life.

"I Am the Bread of Life" (6:35)

And in **John 6** we read (Read **John 6:35**). In the beginning of this chapter, Jesus fed five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. Jesus then left the crowd and went to the other side of the lake. The next day, the crowd followed and caught up with Him. He told them that the reason they were following Him wasn't to hear Him teach, but because He had fed them. They were looking to Him as their source of free food. For the rest of the chapter, Jesus tries to get them to understand about *real*

food, the bread of life. He didn't come to feed our bellies. He came to feed our souls and give us eternal life and salvation.

Holy Communion

These words in **John 6** also remind us of Jesus words at the Last Supper: *"This is My body ... this is My blood"* (**Matthew 26:26, 28**). The **FOOD THAT SATISFIES** is also Jesus' body and blood at Holy Communion.

Forgiveness of Sins, Life, and Salvation

Originally, we said that God was talking about salvation in **Isaiah 55**. The **Small Catechism** says about Communion: *These words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation* (**Small Catechism Section I, Part VI, The Sacrament of the Altar**).

A Foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet

Sometimes, our Communion service includes these words: *As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes* (**1 Corinthians 11:26**). This Supper also points forward to the Heavenly Banquet, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It is a foretaste of what is to come. This is the **FOOD THAT SATISFIES**.

*And the peace of God,
Which surpasses all understanding,
Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
