

Worship at Home, August 1, 2021
The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

INTRODUCTION

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the service begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offence at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. **Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, ✚ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

GATHERING HYMN

EvLW #556 *Morning Has Broken*

1. Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2. Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3. Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not."

Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.'" And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses and said, "I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning, you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, "It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat."

PSALM

Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

So God commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven, raining down manna upon them to eat and giving them grain from heaven. So mortals ate the bread of angels; God provided for them food enough. The Lord caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and powerfully led out the south wind, raining down flesh upon them like dust and flying birds like the sand of the seas, letting them fall in the midst of the camp and round about the dwellings. So the people ate and were well filled, for God gave them what they craved.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Alleluia. (Matt. 4:4)

GOSPEL

John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

SERMON *Today we welcome Bishop Jason Zinko, serving in the Manitoba and Northern Ontario Synod. He is as a contributor to the ELCIC Summer Sermon Series, 2021, and speaks about Jesus as the Bread of Life.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 461 *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

1. All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
2. All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.
3. All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Peace be with you.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You open your arms of hope and healing to all. Grant comfort to those who mourn. Grant peace to those in despair. Give healing of mind, body and spirit to those we hold in our hearts, especially Beryl, Daryl, Eleithia, Ferolyn, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Saviour gave us:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

EvLW # 536 God Be with You Till We Meet Again

1. God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet again,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,) till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.

2. God be with you till we meet again; holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you; God be with you till we meet again. Refrain
3. God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again. Refrain

A SENDING PRAYER *(timely for St. James)*

O Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Aug 02	Numbers 11:16-23, 31- 32	Ephesians 4:17-24	Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43
Tue	Aug 03	Deuteronomy 8:1-20	1 Corinthians 12:27-31	Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43
Wed	Aug 04	Isaiah 55:1-9	Mark 8:1-10	Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43
Thu	Aug 05	1 Samuel 28:20-25	Romans 15:1-6	Psalm 34:1-8
Fri	Aug 06	2 Samuel 17:15-29	Galatians 6:1-10	Psalm 34:1-8
Sat	Aug 07	1 Kings 2:1-9	Matthew 7:7-11	Psalm 34:1-8
Sun	Aug 08	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	John 6:35, 41-51	Psalm 130 (1)
		Ephesians 4:25—5:2		

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