

The Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
August 08, 2021

INTRODUCTION

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister 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, we are shown God's mercy: we are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

EvLW # 504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe, has sworn to work us woe! With dread craft and might
he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
2. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be: The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.
3. Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.
Let this world's tyrant rage, in battle we'll engage. He might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.

4. God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honour, child, or spouse, through life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:4-8

First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the Lord is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.

[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors. "Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbours, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. *Alleluia.* (John 6:51)

GOSPEL

John 6:35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

SERMON

CONVERSATION STARTERS:

What is your favourite memory of bread?

What “Bread” has God provided for you?

What does dying and not dying mean to you?

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 804 *Come Down, O Love Divine*

1. Come down, O Love divine; seek thou this soul of mine
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near; within my heart appear
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.
2. Oh, let it freely burn, till worldly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illuming.
3. Let holy charity mine outward vesture be,
and lowliness become mine inner clothing--
true lowliness of heart, which takes the humbler part,
and o'er its own shortcomings weeps with loathing.

4. And so the yearning strong, with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the pow'r of human telling;
no soul can guess Love's grace till it become the place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.

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.

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one, especially Dawn as she grieves the loss of her sister. For all who are sick Beryl, Daryl, Eleithia, Ferolyn, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. We praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE MEAL

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

We praise you, all-holy God, our maker, our redeemer, our keeper, **for your presence and provision in Elijah's time of despair,**

for the universe beyond our knowing, for lands and seas and all their animals, **for local farms and the fruits of their labour,**

and for friends and strangers and family, for homes and grocery stores and schools, **for businesses and school as they reopen.**

We praise you for your covenant people, for Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, **for the prophets of old,**

and for centuries of faithful Christians, **for Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, and for the faithful who have gone before us.**

We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ, **who saves us from sin and from evil, who is the living bread that came down from heaven.**

HYMN

EvLW # 515 Break Now the Bread of Life

1. Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
as once you broke the loaves beside the sea.
Beyond the sacred page I seek you, Lord;
my spirit waits for you, O living Word.
2. Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me,
as when you blessed the bread by Galilee.
Then shall all bondage cease, all fetters fall;
and I shall find my peace, my All-in-All!
3. You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
your holy word the truth that rescues me.
Give me to eat and live with you above;
teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good. We praise you for your Son Jesus Christ who on the night before he died took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

And so we proclaim the mystery of our faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We pray for your Holy Spirit, your breath, your fire, your wisdom, for faith and courage to go forward into the unknown. Nourish us with the body and blood of Christ, inspire your people for service, trusting in your hand leading us and your love supporting us. Renew the world with Your mercy, with your healing, your justice, and your peace, that prejudice and discrimination, both overt and systemic cease.

We praise you, all-holy God, the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, today, tomorrow, and forever. Amen.

SENDING SONG

EvLW # 793 *Be Thou My Vision*

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
3. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.
4. Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

BLESSING: The blessing of God, Bread of Life who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,  be upon us now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL: Go in peace. We are the body of Christ. Thanks be to God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	Aug 09	1 Kings 17:1-16	Ephesians 5:1-14	Psalm 81
Tue	Aug 10	Ruth 2:1-23 2	Peter 3:14-18	Psalm 81
Wed	Aug 11	Jeremiah 31:1-6	John 6:35-40	Psalm 81
Thu	Aug 12	Job 11:1-20	Acts 6:8-15	Psalm 34:9-14
Fri	Aug 13	Job 12:1-25	Romans 16:17-20	Psalm 34:9-14
Sat	Aug 14	Job 13:1-19	John 4:7-26	Psalm 34:9-14
Sun	Aug 15	Psalm 34:9-14 (10)	Ephesians 5:15-20	John 6:51-58