

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

August 5, 2018

8:00 am



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Food for Every Part of Us

AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, the crowds are still trying to stay close to Jesus, but He says it's for the wrong reason. They want to fill their stomachs, and He declares that He is the bread of life. As the manna in the wilderness wasn't produced by Moses, but was a gift from God, so Jesus didn't come to produce physical bread. He is God's gift to us for what we need in every part of our lives here in time and for eternity. The Epistle focuses on our being part of the Body of Christ, with "one Lord, one faith, one Baptism." Indeed, we are gifts of God to one another, called to faith to speak the truth in love and to work together to build up the Body to the measure of Christ Himself.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

PRELUDE “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” Fred Bock

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL *Congregation, please stand.*

HYMN “Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer” *LSB 918*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 124:8; 130:3–4*

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the LORD,

People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

People: **But with You there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.**

Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Ephesians 4:1–3, 5–6*

Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and His forgiving grace.

Paul urges us in today’s Epistle “to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

People: **But we are not worthy of the calling. We confess that at times we have refused to be humble or gentle. Our patience has been lacking. We have dealt with one another in anger. We have valued ourselves over the unity of the Spirit. In our fallen condition, we cannot free ourselves; so we can only call out to God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.**

Pastor: Paul reminds us that there is one Lord, who has created you and all things; there is one faith in Christ, who by His death has paid for your sins and by His rising has opened the way to eternal life; and there is one Baptism, by which the Holy Spirit has brought You to faith in the one God and Father of us all, who is over all and through all and in all.

As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "The Church's One Foundation"
(Verses 1,5)

LSB 644

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: Merciful Father, You gave Your Son, Jesus, as the heavenly bread of life.
Grant us faith to feast on Him in Your Word and Sacrament, that we may be nourished unto life everlasting;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 16:2–15

(Although the Israelites, freed from Egypt, grumble, God provides quail and manna in the wilderness.)

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death."

Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that

it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD." Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.' "

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.' "

That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, "What is it?" For they did not know what it was.

Moses said to them, "It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: Ephesians 4:1–16

(God has created, redeemed, and called us all to the one Church, a unity shown in our love for one another and all people.)

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says:

"When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."

(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead,

speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise for the Gospel.

VERSE *John 6:35b*

Pastor: Alleluia. I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger,

People: **and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:22–35

(Referring to the manna in the wilderness, Jesus calls Himself the bread of life.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Pastor: On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with His disciples, but that His disciples had gone away alone. Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

When they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him,

People: **“Rabbi, when did You come here?”**

Pastor: Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal.” Then they said to Him,

People: **“What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”**

Pastor: Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.”

People: **So they said to Him, “Then what sign do You do, that we may see and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”**

Pastor: Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

People: They said to Him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Pastor: Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Love, How Deep”

LSB 544

SERMON “Jesus Christ: The Bread of Life”

Pastor John Larson

TEXT: John 6:22-35

NICENE CREED *Text found in the back of the Hymnal.*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the Holy Christian Church here and everywhere, for all people in their various circumstances, both our neighbors and those among the nations around the world.

Paul writes in today’s Epistle that Christ gave to the Church “the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists.”

People: Strengthen them, heavenly Father, to go where they are sent, to teach the truth in love, and to call all people to the Gospel of Your Son.

Pastor: Christ also gave “the shepherds and teachers.”

People: Guide all pastors and lay leaders, Lord Jesus, to nurture Your people, young and old, strong and weak, in faith and love.

Pastor: Christ gave these gifts so that we may each function as part of the Body of Christ as it builds itself up in love.

People: Help us, O Holy Spirit, to use all our gifts to build one another up in love here and, through our mission efforts, around the world.

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus offered much more than physical food—He gave Himself, the bread of life, to the disciples and all His followers in their need.

People: Hear the prayers of all who call out to You...

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We share the Lord’s peace with one another, saying, “Peace be with you.”



OFFERING

OFFERTORY

HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.



✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Colossians 3:1

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Psalm 136

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav- en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My \times body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER *Text found in the back of the Hymnal. (Matthew 6:9–13)*

AGNUS DEI

☩ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

- | | |
|---|---------|
| “Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord” | LSB 637 |
| “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” | LSB 641 |
| “The Death of Jesus Christ, Our Lord” | LSB 634 |

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

HYMN “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

LSB 643

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE “Prelude in Classic Style”

Gordon Young



Lead a life
worthy of the calling ...
making every effort
to maintain the unity
of the Spirit in
the bond of peace.
Ephesians 4:1-3



“I am the LORD
your God.”

E X O D U S 1 6 : 1 2



Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
 DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
 ORGANIST
 YOUTH PRAISE BAND

Pastor John Larson
 Michael Zehnder
 Diana Gaide
 Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly
 Brinkman, Will Kopriva, Sam Riebling,
 Bob Shiflet, Brian Johnson

ELDER 8:00
 10:00
 LECTOR 8:00
 10:00
 ACOLYTE 8:00
 10:00
 USHERS 8:00
 10:00
 SERVER 10:00
 ALTAR GUILD

Arvin Michel
 Roger Gaide
 Mavis Slifka
 Ted Lemke
 Jake Faulk
 Ethan Pankow
 Barry Kratzer, Members of the
 Congregation
 Jason Dierking, Members of the
 Congregation
 May Bible
 Shelia Beu, Rita Kratzer, Phyllis
 McConnell
 Edna & Linda Achziger, in celebration of
 Jacob Achziger's 95th birthday and in
 loving memory of Bertha Propstein