

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

I Am the Bread of Life

August 4 & 5, 2012

AS WE GATHER

We spend so much of our day thinking about food. We have whole television networks devoted to food. Great chefs become as popular as actors or sports figures. Some of our city streets are wall to wall restaurants. Today, Jesus cautions us against the pursuit of that which perishes and the neglect of that food which feeds us to eternal life. Today begins a several week excursion through John 6 on the subject of Jesus, the Bread of Life. His words can be taken several ways. One might see the spiritual side of His words as a call to take heart in the Gospel, but Lutherans cannot help but think of the Sacrament of the Altar. Today, we come echoing the words of the crowd: "Jesus, give us this bread always!" And He does.

WELCOME

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #915 "Today Your Mercy Calls Us"

(Please rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: With upright heart God shepherded them and guided them; *Psalms 78:72*

People: He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven,

Psalms 78:23

All: And rained down upon them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven. *Psalms 78:24*

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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.

Pastor: May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

(p. 155 in hymnal)

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, you know how hard we work for those things that come and go, and do not last. Give us the wisdom of your Holy Spirit that we may labor for that which endures---the bread which is Christ's flesh for the life of the world. Build within us zeal for your Son, and for the means of grace that deliver Him to us. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated)

+ LITURGY OF THE WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT Exodus 16:2-15 (*What is it? It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.*) 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.

EPISTLE Ephesians 4:1-16 (*One Lord, one faith, one Spirit.*) 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[a] 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.

(Please rise)

HOLY GOSPEL John 6:22-35 (*I am the bread of life.*) The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?” Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. On him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.” Then they asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” So they asked him, “What miraculous sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our forefathers ate the manna in the desert; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who 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.” “Sir,” they said, “from now on give us this bread.” Then Jesus declared, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.

(Please be seated)

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY "Oh, Lord, As Once Your Grace Did Feed Us"

(based on John 6:22-35) Tune: LSB #811 “Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices”

"Oh, Lord, as once Your grace did feed us, Grant us this food for ev'ry day.
And from our cares, O Lord release us; Our wants supply in ev'ry way."
Though long ago they once did pray, This still is what we pray today.

"Not grace you seek," our Savior answered, "But bread your hungry mouths to fill.
Yet, this is not the food your souls need; This bread cannot fulfill God's will."
Lord, help us to believe Your Word That we may do the works of God.

"Believe on Him whom God has sent you. This is the work God does require.
And eat the bread I now will give you; For only this food will endure."
As it is promised in Your Word We pray, "Lord, give us heaven's bread."

"My Father gives true bread from heaven; New life for all He's pledged to give.
I am the Bread of Life He's given; So come to Me and you shall live."
Oh, Lord, give us this bread always That we may eat and sing Your praise.

(Text: Larry Peters. Copyright (c) 1994 Larry Peters, revised 2011. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Tune: O DASS ICH TAUSEND ZUNGEN HÄTTE (König), Public domain.)

SERMON

“What Do You Want From Jesus?”

John 6:22-35

(Please rise)

NICENE CREED (*found on the back cover of hymnal*)

(Please be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle.

(Please rise)

PRAYERS

Pastor: Confident that our Lord hears us and provides for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord. For the faithful proclamation of God’s eternal Word, that the body of Christ grow and mature, and be built up in love, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For the Christian Church, that God guard her against constant grumbling, so that she might repent and rejoice in the forgiveness of sins, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For Matthew, our Synod’s president, John, our district president, for our pastors and teachers, and for all who serve this congregation, that in all

things, they speak the truth in love and be faithful in their witness, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who partake in the Lord's Supper, that the bread of life strengthen them in body and soul to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For President Obama and all who govern in our land, that they never forget their accountability to God, but use the authority entrusted to them honorably and for the good of the people, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who suffer from poverty, homelessness, unemployment, or hunger, that God provide their daily bread, show mercy, preserve and relieve them; and that He be their strong deliverer and guide them through the wilderness of this life, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who are sick, suffering from chronic pain, or undergoing surgery including Vida, Arlene, Ron, Louise, Gerald, Irma and Joe, that God grant them healing and the strength to bear their infirmities with patience and grace, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who mourn, that they not lose hope, but always labor for the food that endures to eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: For those who celebrate, especially Richard, Carol, Warren and Ruth we join in praising your name, let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Merciful Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, you have graciously promised that those who believe would never hunger or thirst. Deliver us from all evil, teach us to love our neighbor, that we might always build each other up and care for one another, that in steadfast faith, we may be gathered together before the Lamb in the midst of His throne, to give glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

"Lamb of God"

(p. 163 in hymnal)

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Please be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #642 "O Living Bread from Heaven"

HYMN #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

HYMN #622 "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Please rise)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed Lord, we give you thanks and praise that you have fed and nourished us with the bread which is your body and the cup which is your blood. By this Holy Communion, strengthen us in faith and equip us for your service, that we may honor you with all that we are and offer you all our best for your glory; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #923

"Almighty Father, Bless the Word"

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender, Jr.

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Marty Osell, Pam Akey

AJ Olson, Rachel Osell

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller