

**Restored in Christ
Broken Bread
A Service for Lent
March 2, 2016**

Order of Service

Opening Hymn #431 “Not All the Blood of Beasts”

Not all the blood of beasts on Jewish altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace or wash away the stain.
But Christ, the heav’nly Lamb, takes all our sins away;
A sacrifice of nobler name and richer blood than they.
My faith would lay its hand on that dear head of thine,
While as a penitent I stand, and there confess my sin.
My soul looks back to see the burden thou didst bear
When hanging on the cursed tree; I know my guilt was there.
Believing, we rejoice to see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice and sing his bleeding love.

Opening Litany (Rise)

Pastor: God created us to be dependent and needy beings. We enter life helpless with no choice but to rely on others to provide for all of our needs—and through those others, God provides our needs.

People: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Pastor: Even as adults, our dependence and neediness continues. We must eat and drink every day. We need shelter and clothing, and we need a community and a purpose, and all of these needs God provides.

People: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Pastor: Though God faithfully keeps his promise to provide, our daily needs have a way of distracting us and mastering us. Material things grow large and demand our attention, and we lose perspective.

People: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Pastor: Indeed, there is more to life than the pursuit of bread, and tonight we pause to reorder our thinking and our lives. Tonight, we rejoice that God gives daily bread and his life-giving Word.

People: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Hymn #642 “O Living Bread from Heaven” Stanzas 1-3

O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing, oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, with praises overflows.

My Lord, you here have led me to this most holy place.
And with yourself have fed me the treasures of your grace;
For you have freely given what earth could never buy,
The Bread of Life from heaven, that now I shall not die.

You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted the cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit bow down before your throne.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: We so easily misuse what God gives: blessings become obsessions, gifts become vices and provisions become causes for temptation and sin. So we confess together our problems with daily bread and our struggle with life’s material needs.

People: Lord, you shower me each day with all that I need to sustain this life. My material blessings are beyond number, and most of them I have simply come to expect and so hardly notice. Forgive me for being complacent about your abundant giving. Forgive me for turning your good gifts into causes for sin as I worry about keeping what I have, and getting what I don't have. Forgive me for obsessing about and reaching for more than I need. Forgive me for abusing what I do have with my selfishness, my lack of self-control and my greed. Forgive me for making a mess of your good gift of daily bread.

Pastor: God is the giver of all good gifts. He gives rich gifts of material treasures, and far more importantly, he gives the gift of forgiveness when we fail rightly to use what he gives us. Receive the wonderful word from his own mouth: Forgiven! You are forgiven for every failure.

People: Amen. *(Be seated)*

First Reading: Genesis 3:1-8

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from the tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'" "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:11-13

We hear that some among you are idle. They are not busy; they are busybodies. Such people we command and urge in the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and earn the bread they eat. And as for you, brothers, never tire of doing what is right.

6:00 Anthem *"Oh How He Loves You and Me"* *Grades 1-4*

Gospel Reading: John 6:48-58 *(Rise)*

"I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever." *(Be seated)*

Sermon Hymn #625 "Lord Jesus Christ, Life-giving Bread" Stanzas 1, 3, 4

Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving Bread, may I in grace possess you.
Let me with holy food be fed, in hunger I address you.
Prepare me well for you, O Lord, and, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me your grace and mercy.

O Bread of heav'n, my soul's delight, for full and free remission
I come with prayer before your sight in sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me that I receive you worthily,
Assured of your full pardon.

I do not merit favor, Lord, my weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord, O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me that you receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!

Sermon

"Broken Bread"

John 6:48-58

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. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

6:00 Offertory *"God Loves Me Dearly"* *Grades 1-4*

Prayers (Rise)

Each petition ends with the following response:

Pastor: Christ who heals all brokenness,

People: restore us, Bread of heaven.

The Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Pastor: All you need has been given to you by your Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Go forward and use well what he has given to accomplish what he wills. Go in his purpose and in his peace.

People: Amen

Closing Hymn #420 “Christ, the Life of All the Living” Stanzas 1 & 5

Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe:
Through thy sufferings, death and merit I eternal life inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee, that from pain I might be free;
Falsely did thy foes accuse thee: thence I gain security;
Comfortless thy soul did languish me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be, dearest Jesus, unto thee.

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