

Church of the Divine Love

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 14

AUGUST 8, 2021

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#294 – Baptized in water**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **1 Kings 19:4-8**

Psalm 34:1-8

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

Gradual Hymn **#593 – Lord, make us servants of your peace**

Gospel: **John 6:35, 41-51**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#335 – I am the bread of life**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – One Bread, One Body (see insert)	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #390 – Praise to the Lord	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday August 8, 2021

1 Kings 19: 4-8; Psalm 130 or 34: 1-8; Ephesians 4: 25-5:2; John 6: 35, 41-51

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

In the sixth chapter of John's gospel, Jesus has been teaching the crowds and his disciples about bread. A few weeks ago, we heard how he fed 5000 people with a few small loaves of barley bread. Last week, he described himself as "the Bread of Life." Today's reading repeats the last verse we heard a week ago, and then takes us further into the story, as we hear Jesus explain what he means by this radical claim.

The Jews began to complain about Jesus. "He didn't come from heaven. We know all about him. He's Mary and Joseph's boy." They know facts about Jesus, but they don't really know him or where he comes from. He doesn't look a thing like the bread they or their ancestors have eaten. When it comes to bread, they don't expect any more than what their ancestors got, manna in the wilderness.

Jesus tells them to be quiet and stop complaining. "Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.... 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." Jesus offers them a choice, living bread or manna, life, or death. That is the same choice he sets before us.

On the surface it seems to be a conflict between Jesus and the Jews. In reality the conflict is not outside of the Jews. It is within them. That's how it is with conflict. It originates within us and gets projected onto and fought one another. The conflict for the Jews is not so much about Jesus but about their frame of reference, the box they have created for God. Jesus is challenging them to step outside of the established, comfortable, and familiar context they have created for themselves. He refuses to be limited by either their understandings or their misunderstandings. He invites them to live a new life, a larger life, a life that springs from but is not bound by the past or the context they have created for themselves. He invites them to eat new bread.

When John speaks of the Jews, he is not referring to the Jewish people, individually or collectively. He is referring to any person or group who opposes Jesus, who refuses to see and understand the signs, who would separate the gift of bread from the giver of life. The Jews could be anyone who acts in this way. In this case it just happens to be the religious leaders and authorities of Jesus' day. We are not so different from the Jews. We too have our own frames of reference. Sometimes we use our frame of reference to try to contain or control God. Other times we use it to exclude God. The problem is not that we have a frame of reference, but that it originates with us rather than with God.

When we live only from our personal frame of reference, we live hungry, empty lives. We work for manna rather than opening ourselves to receive the gift of the bread of life. No matter how much manna we collect and eat we can never satisfy ourselves. Manna might fill our bellies, but it leaves our souls grumbling. Why do we still hunger? How are we not satisfied? Could it be that we have not really ingested this living bread, but only tasted it? Could it be that we have not completely internalized Christ's sacrifice for us, and made it the very center of ourselves? Have we held back from committing ourselves completely to Jesus? Has our love for him been superficial, limited to showing up on Sundays, or helping with a project, but not really devoting ourselves to a life of following Jesus?

A superficial faith is not enough to experience the abundant life that Jesus promises to us. Going through the motions of eating won't fill you up. Jesus tells us that if we want the hunger in us to be satisfied, we have to believe he is who he says he is, God with us. We have to start living like we believe it. Our lives must have Jesus at the core. How do we get Jesus into our core? John's gospel opens with the familiar lines, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God." Spending significant time in the Word is one way we begin to become what we eat. Devouring the Bible, ingesting the Word, makes us into different people. Reading and re-reading God's Word every day feeds your soul, just as the food you eat every day feeds your physical body.

Often the things we have done and left undone prevent us from eating the bread of life. Sometimes our patterns of thinking, believing, the way we see the world, each other, or ourselves convince us there is no other bread and we should just settle for the same old manna our ancestors ate in the wilderness. Other times our history, fears, anxieties, guilt, regrets, pain, and losses become so firmly established we are deceived into believing that we are not even hungry. It does not have to be like that. The table of God is set and there is a place for each one of us. We are not destined to eat manna the rest of our lives. Our frame of reference, our past, our history, neither earn us nor keep us from the bread of life. Rather, the living bread has come down from heaven to feed each one of us. Every moment of every day God invites us to eat new bread, to step out of the old context into a new way of living and being.

Jesus is the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever consumes this bread will live forever. Christ gives his own life for the life of the world. He asks us to be like him, and do the same thing, giving all that we are to him. Take, eat, this is Christ's body given for you, that you might become Christ to someone else who hungers for God. God gives us bread from heaven, knowing that we are hungry. Our conflicts, our restlessness, our deep longings, our desires to love and be loved are hunger pains by which the father draws us to his son; the one who said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. "Holy bread for holy hunger. The gift of God for the people of God. **Amen!**

11 PENTECOST

9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
(also on zoom)

MONDAY

8:00 AM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

12 PENTECOST

9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Prayer for Grace and Favor: Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, "these are the ones that the Lord has blessed." Shine your light in us, through us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Girard Bishop	People of Haiti	Dorothy
Nathan Treadwell	John Loubengeiger	Chris Dickson
Michael Echevarria	Francisco Febres	Del
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	John Rocco
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	James
Julia	Mo (Rachael)	Warren
Bill Conklin Sr.	Anthony Paribello	Kate Jones
Barbara Curran	Edward Lent & family	Laura
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Christopher & his family	Aidan
Elodie	Taylor	Ciara
Gabriel	Victims of Wild Fires	

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

The departed: Bill Conklin

