

God's service Sunday, August 4, 2024
11th Sunday after Pentecost
WOV Holy Communion Setting Five: Bread of Life



WELCOME

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds to meet Jesus in God's service as we listen to the prelude.

PRELUDE *Praise and Thanksgiving* arr. by Holloway

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

DEDICATION OF NEW BAPTISMAL FONT

Sisters and brothers, today we give thanks to God and we seek God's blessing as we set apart *this bowl and pitcher* to the glory of God.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, creator of the universe,
for you have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift;
you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children;
and you have invited us to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.
Send your blessing on *this bowl and pitcher* which we set apart on this font today;
may those who die and rise in it's waters with Christ let their lights shine that the world may see your glory.

To you, O God, be all glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

GREETING (WOV p. 28)

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

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE (WOV p. 29)

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;
glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God's people on earth,
and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (WOV p. 30)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

A reading from Exodus.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, "I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day

the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 78:23-29

²³So he commanded the ¹ clouds above
and opened the ¹ doors of heaven.

²⁴**He rained down manna upon ¹ them to eat
and gave them ¹ grain from heaven. R**

²⁵So mortals ate the ¹ bread of angels;
he provided for them ¹ food enough.

²⁶**He caused the east wind to blow ¹ in the heavens
and led out the south wind ¹ by his might.**

²⁷He rained down flesh upon ¹ them like dust
and winged birds like the sand ¹ of the sea.

²⁸**He let it fall in the midst ¹ of their camp
and round ¹ about their dwellings.**

²⁹So they ate and ¹ were well filled,
for he gave them ¹ what they craved. **R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;
he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (WOV p. 31)

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give

us this bread always.”

³⁵Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *What Feast of Love* (WOV 701)

- 1 What feast of love is offered here,
 what banquet come from heaven?
 What food of everlasting life,
 what gracious gift is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the bread come down from heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 How sweet the manna given!

- 2 What light of truth is offered here,
 what covenant from heaven?
 What hope of everlasting life,
 what wondrous word is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sun come down from heaven.
 Oh, see and hear and sing!
 The Word of God is given!

- 3 What wine of love is offered here,
 what crimson drink from heaven?
 What stream of everlasting life,
 what precious blood is given?
 This, this is Christ the king,
 the sweetest wine of heaven.
 Oh, taste and see and sing!
 The Son of God is given!

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THE PRAYERS

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

God of healing, you open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We remember any who are sick or suffering *especially* Shirley, Jim, Melissa, Heather, Lars, Darla, Anna, Gene, Chris, Susan, Cheryl, families in our community who endure hunger, those who seek asylum or citizenship, and our beloved for whom death is near and these others we name before you now in our hearts and with our voices. (*pause for names to be spoken.*) In your mercy,

receive our prayer.

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed (*especially*). Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen.

PEACE (WOV p. 34)

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

SHARING GOD'S ABUNDANCE

The distractions in our world are many, so we need to be reoriented regularly to Christ's gift for us. Jesus recognizes our hunger and offers himself as the ultimate nourishment for our deepest

needs. Jesus is not fooled by our distractedness, our quick fixes, our tendency to gravitate toward things that will never truly satisfy. He seeks us out, offering his body for our sake— our ultimate sustenance, giving us all we need for the journey ahead. Nourished with this gift of life, we are set free to share his gift with a world in need. If you have offering to share please raise your hand and an usher will be by with a plate. Together the world will feast on the bread of life.

OFFERING MUSIC *Now to the Holy Spirit* arr. by Rubsam

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (WOV p. 35)

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

DIALOGUE (WOV p. 36)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (WOV p. 36)

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through 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. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (WOV p. 36)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus 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.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (WOV p. 39)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Receive who you are; Become what you receive. Come to this table, you who are strong in faith and you who seek building up. You who have been to this sacrament often, and you who have not been for some time. You who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who bids us to meet him here and there is a place set just for you at his table.

COMMUNION (WOV p. 39)

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN (WOV p. 39)

**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, grant us peace.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *Hymn Tune Ebenezer* arr. by Wilson

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE (WOV p. 40)

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and bear Christ's holy name.
Send us with your promises, O God, and lead us forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and send us in mission to the world.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

And now as you go on your way, may Christ go with you.
May he go before you to lead you,
behind you to encourage you,
beside you to befriend you,
above you to watch over you,
and always, always within you to give you his peace.
In the name of the Father, +the Son and the Holy Spirit, amen.

SENDING HYMN *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)

1 God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels guide, uphold you,

with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain

Till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again,)
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet,)
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain*

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Upcoming Commemorations

Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221

Thursday, August 8, 2024

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Saturday, August 10, 2024

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.

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