

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

C: and renew a right spirit within me.

L: Cast me not away from your presence,

C: and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

L: Restore to me the joy of your salvation

C: and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

OPENING HYMN: #248 (Green) *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* (vs. 1,2,3)

Dearest Jesus, at your word, we have come again to hear you;
Let our thoughts and hearts be stirred and in glowing faith be near you
As the promises here given, draw us wholly up to heaven.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till your Spirit breaks the night, filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living come but by your gracious giving.

Radiance of God's glory bright, light of light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light; help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
That our prayers and songs may please you as with grateful hearts we praise you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

C: Amen.

L: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our provider

C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

L: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God,

C: **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.**

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15 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."

SECOND LESSON: Ephesians 4:1-16 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.

GOSPEL: John 6:24-35 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."

MESSAGE Pastor John Twiton

SERMON HYMN: # 343 (Green) *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore:
Feed me now and evermore.

Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar. Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm;
Shield me with your mighty arm.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises I will raise forevermore;
I will raise forevermore.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: #499 Green) Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing. Tune my heart to sing thy grace,
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise,
While the hope of endless glory, fills my heart with joy and love.
Teach me ever to adore thee, may I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by thy help I'm come,
And I hope by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be,
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord I feel it; prone to leave the God I love,
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Kyle Fargo, Mary Jane Ellis (friend of Bonny Kellogg), Kristin Swedlund-Twiton, Mike Mackler (friend of Char Smith), Connie Peterson, Bonnie Bender, Ginger Quaderer (Diane Mueller's cousin), Norbert Haag (brother of Virgil Haag), Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg), Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson),

Delores Bryant, Makenzee Smith, Shirley Thompson, Brock Howe, Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith), Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher), Jeannie U'Ren, Ruth Ann Nemet, Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother), Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl), Irene Brufat, Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower), Bill Steinhauer, Harlan Oimoen, Peter Toniazzo, Grace Aavang, Carol Johnson

Our partner congregation IGLESIA EVANGÉLICA LUTERANA DIVINO SALVADOR (Divine Savior Lutheran Church) in Cataño, P.R

NO ELC 'COFFEE TIME' There will be no Coffee Time on August 4th, for just a one-week break. Everyone is welcome to join us at ELC on August 11, at 10:00am.

ELC T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE We have new ELC t-shirts available for purchase. They are a dark green t-shirt with our ELC logo. \$5.00 per shirt, payable to ELC.

ELC FAITH CONNECTION-Our ELC Group on Facebook, *ELC Faith Connection*, is for everyone of all ages. This summer, keep your eyes open for 'hearts' you notice in nature. Share your photos on our Facebook group and we will draw names for gift cards to our local community before school begins. #heartsinthewild. Contact Brenda, if you need help connecting.

GIVE/LOVE/SERVE (Thriving on Thursdays) Middle-High school youth may join us on **Thursday, August 19th** to help with the Madison Reading Project and help with the car boxes at Second Harvest. A great opportunity to help our community. **Register online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4daea929a5ffc70-giveloveservice>**

THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS: Many thanks to everyone who gave food donations and fleece for blankets. These projects are a part of our GIVE/LOVE/SERVE days for our youth this summer. Food donations will help make many meals, "Meal in a Bag", for the community Little Food Pantries and the blankets will go to the blanket drive for St Vincent de Paul. It was a great opportunity to include so many others in helping our community.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 1, 2021

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding
Monday, Psalm 107:1-3; 33-43, Thanksgiving for deliverance
Tuesday, 1 Corinthians 12:27-31, The Church as the Body of Christ
Wednesday, Mark 8:1-10, Feeding of the 4000
Thursday, Psalm 34:1-8, Prayer for deliverance
Friday, Galatians 6:1-10, Bear one another's burdens
Saturday, Matthew 7:7-11, Ask, Search, Knock

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: *“Jesus 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.” John 6:26-27* 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.

- Have you encountered others who seem to think following Jesus only about material blessings?
- What more important gift than physical bread does Jesus offer?
- What do you seek in following Jesus?

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.

BLESS: May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.