

St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church
1615 N. Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213

August 1st, 2021

8:30 & 10:15 a.m. Services

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Theme: Bread of Heaven for You

Introduction for the Day: 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.

Gathering

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Sheila Rawn

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad!

Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

"I am the Bread of Life," says Jesus Christ. "Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Prepare to be invited to the banquet of the Lord.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you in our thinking, in our speaking, and in our doing. We take your mercy for granted and accept your loving kindness. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive our sins that we may follow where you lead, and fill us with perfect goodness, that we may live as your Spirit directs us, filled with all the fullness of God.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.

Through Jesus, ✝ the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. Whoever comes to him will never hunger; whoever believes in him will never thirst.

Amen.

Gathering Song

#542 O Living Bread from Heaven [Stanzas 1-2]

1. *O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest! The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest. O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes! My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'er flows.*
2. *My Lord, you have led me within your holiest place, and here yourself have fed me with 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.*

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt. Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876. Tune: Aurelia.

Litany for "*Bread of Heaven*" Sunday

Christ, the Bread of Life, feed your people with the nourishment they need.

Fill us with your goodness and grace.

Bless the work that takes place in food pantries and homeless shelters, where the poor and needy are given what they need.

May these places offer help and hope.

Bless the work of farmers who plant the seeds and harvest the crops for the people of this land.

May the crops be healthy and the harvest plentiful.

Bless our celebrations of Holy Communion and the sharing of your Word.

May your Body and Blood satisfy our souls and may your Good News gratify our minds.

Apostolic Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

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

(Please be seated)

First 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, Chapter 4.

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

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until 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.

We 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. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from 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.

Psalm

Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

Let us read responsively from Psalm 78.

So God commanded the clouds above and opened the doors of heaven,
raining down manna upon them to eat and giving them grain from heaven.

So mortals ate the bread of angels; God provided for them food enough.

The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens and powerfully led out the south wind,

raining down flesh upon them like dust and flying birds like the sand of the seas,
letting them fall in the midst of the camp and round about the dwellings.

So the people ate and were well filled, for God gave them what they craved.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

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.

When 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.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 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. Do 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.”

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So 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? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Then 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. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

Jesus 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.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia! Taste and See

Al - le - lu - ia! Taste and see just how good the Lord can be:
 "For your hun - ger shall be o'er; come to me and thirst no more!"
 Al - le - lu - ia! Rich - ly fed on this true, life - giv - ing Bread,
 Lord, to whom else can we go? You have words of life, we know.

Text: Arden W. Mead. Based on John 6:24-35. Copyright: © 1990. Used with permission. Tune: Slazburg, 77 77D

Music: Jakob Hintze, 1622-1702, Adapt.

Sermon Text

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, Chapter 16.

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The 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."

Then 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."

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” And 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. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “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.’”

In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When 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.

(Please be seated)

Sermon

Pastor Sheila Rawn

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day

#461 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly [Stanzas 1 & 3]

Prayer Cards will be collected during the hymn of the day.

1. *All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*
3. *All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed. Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.*

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993. Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL. Podcast/Streamed/Reprinted with permission under One License A-703603. All rights reserved. Music: W. Moore, Columbian Harmony, 1825. W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835. Tune: Holy Manna, 87 87 D.

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he
descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we join with the church in every place, praying for the world
and the church, and all people in need.

... Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

By the sure guidance of your Holy Spirit, O God, we lift up our prayers in trust and
thanksgiving, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Meal

(Please be seated)

Musical Offering

Reflection on "Candler" by Larry Shackley

(Please stand as you are able)

Offertory Response

#884 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711. Music: Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561. Tune: Old Hundredth, LM.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Your promise, "*I am going to rain bread from heaven for you*" has been fulfilled. 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.

Great Thanksgiving

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,

And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Come for the table has been prepared for us.

Please be seated

Please take your belongings with you to communion.

Communion Hymn

#477 I Received the Living God

Please meditate on the hymn text.

I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

I received the living God, and my heart is full of joy.

*Jesus said: I am the bread, kneaded long to give you life; you who will partake of me
need not ever fear to die.*

Music & Text: Anonymous. Tune: Living God 77 77 Refrain.