

Sunday, August 12, 2018
12th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

"Fanfare"
Stephen Schmidt

J. Lemmens

***GATHERING SONG**

"What Feast of Love"

ELW 487

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!

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!

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!

***GREETING**

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 *Gracious God,*

C **your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the**

world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“To God Be the Glory”
Sharmyn Thompson

Andre Crouch

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:4-8

First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the Lord is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.

⁴[Elijah] went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: “It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors.”⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, “Get up and eat.”⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, “Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.”⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Reflection

For context, to see why Elijah is fleeing into the wilderness, read 1 Kings 19:1-3; or even better, read the story of Ahab and Jezebel, and their hatred of Elijah beginning with 1 Kings 16:31-19:3—it’s a good story, especially if you like bloody stories. Which I did as a child, when I first heard this story in our family devotions! What does Elijah expect will happen to him in the wilderness? (verse 4) What do you think Elijah means when he prays that “I am no better than my ancestors”? Does he think he has simply failed? Or something else? What happens when he falls asleep? (verses 5-6) Does the food encourage Elijah? What happens again? (verse 7) Does this food encourage and strengthen Elijah? (verse 8) Who provided the food? If you want to know why God wanted him to go to Horeb, read further in verses 9-18. As I said, it’s a good story.

Psalm 34:1-8

¹I will bless the LORD| at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.

²**I will glory | in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear | and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;
let us exalt God’s | name together.

⁴**I sought the LORD, who | answered me**
and delivered me from | all my terrors.

⁵Look upon the LORD| and be radiant,
and let not your faces | be ashamed.

⁶**I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me**

and saved me from | all my troubles.

⁷The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD
and de- | livers them.

⁸**Taste and see that the | LORD is good;
happy are they who take ref- | uge in God!**

Reflection

This psalm might have been a psalm of Elijah. What does the psalmist say about praising God? (verses 1-3) Why praise God? (verses 4, 6-7) Note that in verse 7, “those who fear the Lord” does not mean those who are afraid of the Lord, but rather those who respect and love the Lord. Why should those who read this psalm be radiant and not ashamed? Have you ever been terrified? (verse 4) Sometimes our terrors are based on reality, and sometimes they are like nightmares or fears that we just have. If you have terrors or are ever terrified, Psalm 34:4 might be a good Bible verse to commit to memory! When do we “taste the Lord” in our regular worship? (verse 8) How does Holy Communion help us to take refuge in God?

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:25--5:2

Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Reflection

In the Lutheran Bible, this text has a title: “Rules for the New Life.” These rules are in verses 25-32. Which of these do you find most difficult to follow? Some of them are not easy to understand, much less to follow. In the times in which we live, how do we speak the truth to our neighbors, especially when we disagree with them? (verse 25) How can a person be angry but not sin? (verse 26) I note that this means that anger is an emotion, not a sin. How might letting your anger last more than a day make room for the devil? (verse 27) I know when I am angry I usually also feel self-righteous, which always makes room for the devil! What is the reason that thieves must work honestly with their own hands? (verse 28) In Ephesians 5:5, greed is equated with idolatry. When someone steals something or refuses to share what they have, how might that be a sign of making an idol of a thing or money rather than God? What kind of evil talk comes out of our mouths? (verse 29) Perhaps gossip, lying, angry speech, and all the other kinds of words in verse 31. May our words always give grace to those who hear.

What kind of words give you grace? What would grieve the Holy Spirit of God? (verse 30) Be kind—good advice! How is it possible to imitate God? (verse 1) Who can teach us this? (verse 2)

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

ELW 172

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

***GOSPEL**

John 6:35, 41-51

After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.

³⁵Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴²They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” ⁴³Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I 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.”

Reflection

What is the claim of Jesus in verse 35? How is it possible that those who receive Jesus will never be hungry or thirsty again? What do you think this means? In verse 41 the people (perhaps the people from his hometown) are complaining about what he said. Why don't they believe him? (verse 42) Who is Jesus? Not just the son of Joseph and Mary and the neighbor they've seen grow up. (verses 43-44) How do they know that someone has been taught by God? (verse 45) How is Jesus the bread of life different from the manna from heaven, or the bread that Elijah received? (verses 48-50) What is the audacious claim Jesus makes in verse 51? How do you understand Jesus as the bread of life? What does Holy Communion mean to you? If you're not sure, you may want to review the section from the Small Catechism on “The Sacrament of the Altar,” which you can find on page 1166 in the cranberry hymnal.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Eugene Lickenbrock

SERMON

**Bread of Life
*I Am = Bread of Life***

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

“Do This in Memory of Me” v 1, refrain, v 2, refrain, v 1, refrain

I am the bread of life
All who believe in Me
will have eternal life
I am the bread of life
Come down from heaven
So that all who eat this bread
will never die

Refrain

Take the living bread of life
Take the cup of sacrifice
Do this in memory of Me
Take the body and the blood
Given freely out of love
Do this in memory of Me
Do this in memory of Me

I am the bread of life
Whoever comes to Me
will not hunger again
I am the bread of life
No one can come to Me
Unless the Father draws
them near to Him ***Refrain***

I am the bread of life
All who believe in Me
will have eternal life
I am the bread of life
Come down from heaven
So that all who eat this bread
will never die ***Refrain***

***WELCOME NEW MEMBERS – Irene & Daniel Wall**

☞ *Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for Irene and Daniel, one with us in the body of Christ, who is making public affirmation of his baptism.*

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for this sister and brother, whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called them to yourself, enlightened them with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished them in the community of faith. Uphold your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

☞ **Amen!**

- P** *Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?*
- C** **We renounce them.**
- P** *Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?*
- C** **We renounce them.**
- P** *Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?*
- C** **We renounce them.**
- P** *Do you believe in God the Father?*
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
- P** *Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?*
- C** **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.**
- P** *Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?*
- C** **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.**
- P** *You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant
God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?*
- R** **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**
- P** *People of God, do you promise to support this sister and brother and pray for them in
their life in Christ?*
- R** **I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.**
- P** *Let us rejoice with this sister and brother in Christ.*
- C** **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God**

and proclaim the good news to all the world.

***PRAYER SONG**

“Let My Prayer be a Fragrant Offering”

Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,
as incense to you arise.

Let my prayer be a fragrant offering,
my hands lifted up in praise.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Lord God, we pray for the whole church. Sustain all who have tasted the bread of heaven and found solace in the promise of eternal life. Teach us to forgive one another in love and build each other up. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord God, save and protect your creation. Feed, nourish, and encourage all living creatures, and teach us to practice faithful stewardship. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord God, you rule the nations. Lead all people to speak truth and kindness to one another, walking in the paths of justice and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord God, we pray for those in need. Comfort those who mourn, encourage the fearful, and tend the sick *especially Alivia, David, Lisa and her baby Lara, Klaire, and Dorothy, Linda, Kay,* and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord God, we pray for those gathered here today. Feed us well so that the difficult journey of life may not be too much, and sustain us through times of trial. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord God, we bless you for the lives of those faithful ones who have gone before us. Raise all at the last day, that we may exalt your name together. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen!

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

G **And also with you!**

OFFERTORY

“I Am the Bread Of Life”

Chorus

I am the Bread of Life
All who eat this Bread will never die
I am God's love revealed
I am broken that you might be healed

All who eat of this heavenly Bread
All who drink this cup of the covenant
You will live forever
For I will raise you up *Chorus*

No one who comes to Me shall ever hunger again
No one who believes shall ever thirst
All that the Father draws shall come to Me
And I will give them rest *Chorus*

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *(The final chorus of “I Am The Bread Of Life”)*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P *Merciful God,*

G you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing. You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen!

***DIALOGUE**

P *The Lord be with you.*

G **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

G **We lift them to the Lord.**

P *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

G **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

***PREFACE**

P *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**Holy, Holy, Holy
Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna,
hosanna in the highest.**

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P *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.*

***LORD'S PRAYER**

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

C **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**

☞ *Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.*

***BLESSING**

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

☞ **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

☞ *Jesus Christ, host of this meal,*

☞ **you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen!**

***BENEDICTION**

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

Peter C. Lutkin

Chancel Choir

***DISMISSAL**

☞ *Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.*

☞ **Thanks be to God!**