

Sunday, August 19, 2018
13th Sunday after Pentecost

***GATHERING SONG**

“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***

***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.**

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

☞ *Ever-loving God,*

☞ **your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"You Are My Hiding Place"

Jim Bunge, violin

Phil Lewis, guitar

FIRST READING

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

- ¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
⁵"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."

Reflection

Who is Wisdom? (Note that in Proverbs 8:22-31, Wisdom is with the Lord when the world was created.) Wisdom is a woman in Proverbs. What do you think is Wisdom's house? (verse 9) I think of the wise person who built their house on the rock, not on the sand. I think of Paul's referring to the church as the temple of the Lord, the body of Christ. She is preparing a meal, a banquet. (verse 2) Who is invited to this banquet? (verses 3-4) What will be served? (verses 5-6) What strikes you about this text? Are we invited? (It might make us a bit irritated to be called "simple" and "without sense," but perhaps we are those who need most to be at this banquet! What do you think?)

Psalm 34:9-14

- ⁹Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.

¹²**Who among you takes plea- | sure in life
and desires long life to en- | joy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your | tongue from evil
and your lips from | lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil | and do good;
seek peace | and pursue it.**

Reflection

This psalm text is perhaps the content of the banquet served by Lady Wisdom in our first text. What does it mean in this context to “fear the Lord”? (verse 9; see verse 11) What happens when we fear the Lord and come to the Lord’s banquet? (verses 9-10) What will we receive at this banquet? (verse 11) What does it mean in this context to “take pleasure in life”? (verse 12) What do those who take pleasure in life and enjoy prosperity do with their life? (verses 13-14)

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection

The writer of Ephesians encourages the readers to live wisely. Why? (verses 15-16) This was written in the early days of the church. What do you think it meant for the writer’s first readers to know that “the days are evil”? What does it mean for us? What is the opposite of foolishness? (verse 17) How will someone who lives in such wisdom act? (verses 18-19) How does this way of life encourage and help us to give thanks to the Lord at all times and for everything? (verse 20) I know that it is hard to live thanks “at all times and for everything,” when we see so much foolishness and debauchery around us. How will giving thanks help us to live wisely?

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia! Alleluia!**

***GOSPEL**

John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹"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."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

Reflection

What/who does Jesus say he is? (verse 51) What is the gift of partaking of Jesus' flesh? What does that even mean? (One of the arguments in the Reformation was whether when Jesus says that the bread we eat is his flesh, is it a metaphor or is it really his flesh. What do you believe?) What is the gift we receive from Jesus when we eat his flesh and drink his blood? (verses 53-54) We Lutherans say that in a unique way we receive Jesus' flesh and blood when we eat the bread and drink the wine of communion. Are there other ways we receive Jesus' life ?

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Bread of Life
You Are What You Eat

Rev. Roger Lenander

SONG OF THE DAY

"Make Me a Servant" (twice)

**Make me a servant,
humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up
those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant,
make me a servant,
make me a servant today.**

***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.

***PRAYER SONG**

"Jesus, Name Above All Names"

Jesus name above all names
Beautiful Savior glorious Lord
Emmanuel God is with us
Blessed Redeemer living Word

***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.

O Lord, you build your church, the body of Christ, and sustain it with living bread. Let wisdom guide your church, and teach all its members the way of righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, bless the work of musicians, composers, writers, and all artists. Move us to even greater praise through their gifts of creativity. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, we thank you for the diversity of the nations. Shower your wisdom and mercy upon all leaders and citizens. Give us all the courage to seek peace and pursue it. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, send calm and perseverance to those who are in trouble or who live daily with great stress. Fill them with your Spirit and satisfy them with your presence. We especially lift those up to your healing hands: *especially Alivia, David, Lisa and her baby Lara, Klaire, and Dorothy, Kay,* and for those we name before you aloud or silently in our hearts (pause for 10 seconds). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, we thank you for this congregation. Give us gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy, and inspire us to give thanks at all times. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

O Lord, we bless you for family, friends, and sisters and brothers in Christ who have guided us in wisdom and insight. Lead us into peace with all people until the day of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

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.*
- C** **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,*
- C** **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.*
- C** **And also with you.**

P *Lift up your hearts.*

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

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

C **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**

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power;
holy is the Lord.**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord God,
God of might and power;
holy is the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna here on earth.**

**Blest is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

***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**

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

***BLESSING**

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

C **Amen!**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P *Jesus Christ, host of this meal,*

C **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**

P *May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.*

*Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.*

C **Amen!**

Refrain

Shine Jesus shine
Fill this land
With the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit blaze
Set our hearts on fire
Flow river flow
Flood the nations
With grace and mercy
Send forth Your word Lord
And let there be light

Lord the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus Light of the world shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me shine on me *Refrain*

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me shine on me *Refrain*

***DISMISSAL**

P *Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.*
G **Thanks be to God!**