

March 22, 2023

Bread of Life

As We Gather

The bread we bake in our homes or buy from the store is good for today. But by tomorrow, it may be gone. The gifts we receive in this world satisfy us for a moment; however, the gifts we receive in the promised treasures of God's Word are gifts that are eternal. When Jesus describes Himself in John 6 as the bread of life, we know that He highlights for us His mission of salvation. As our bread of life, Jesus comes to forgive us, renew us, and lead us toward a meaningful life in relationship with Him. Let us taste and experience that life together this day as the Holy Spirit calls us to walk with Jesus and be satisfied by His presence among us

↑ Evening Prayer - Service of Light

P Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

P Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,

C **and the day is almost over.**

P Let Your light scatter the darkness

C **and illumine Your Church.**

P Joyous light of glory of the immortal Father; heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ.

C **We have come to the setting of the sun, and we look to the evening light.**

P We sing to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: You are worthy of being praised with pure voices forever.

C **O Son of God, O Giver of life: the universe proclaims Your glory.**

P Blessèd are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night.

C **Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

P For You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise (891 O Light Whose Splendor)

- 1 O Light whose splendor thrills and gladdens
With radiance brighter than the sun,
Pure gleam of God's unending glory,
O Jesus, blest Anointed One;
- 2 As twilight hovers near at sunset,
And lamps are lit, and children nod,
In evening hymns we lift our voices
To Father, Spirit, Son: one God.
- 3 In all life's brilliant timeless moments,
Let faithful voices sing Your praise,
O Son of God, our Life-bestower,
Whose glory lightens endless days.

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Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1944

Introit

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

- P** For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
C so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
P But He was wounded for our transgressions;
C He was crushed for our iniquities;
P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
C and with His stripes we are healed.

Confession of Sins

Based on Philippians 2:1–11

WOMEN: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

MEN: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

WOMEN: Amen.

MEN: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

WOMEN: The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

MEN: Amen.

Collect of the Day

- P** Let us pray. (*A time of silence for personal prayer is kept.*)
Lord Jesus Christ, You reveal Yourself as the bread of life who satisfies all the hungry souls that return to You in repentance and faith.
- C** Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;
- P** for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

↓ 424 O Christ, You Walked the Road

- 1 O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's pow'r And fought our ancient foe.
- 2 No bread of earth alone Can fill our hung'ring hearts.
Lord, help us seek Your living Word, The food Your grace imparts.
- 3 No blinding sign we ask, No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone In Your unswerving love.
- 4 When lures of easy gain With promise brightly shine,
Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; Our wills with Yours align.
- 5 O Christ, You walked the road Our wand'ring feet must go.
Stay with us through temptation's hour To fight our ancient foe.

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Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2–5, 11–18

- P** The Old Testament Reading is from Exodus, the sixteenth chapter.

²And the whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.”

¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Gather of it, each one of you, as much as he can eat. You shall each take an omer, according to the number of the persons that each of you has in his tent.’” ¹⁷And the people of Israel did so. They gathered, some more, some less. ¹⁸But when they measured it with an omer, whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack. Each of them gathered as much as he could eat.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 19:7–10, 14

P The law of the LORD is perfect,

C **reviving the soul;**

P the testimony of the LORD is sure,

C **making wise the simple;**

P the precepts of the LORD are right,

C **rejoicing the heart;**

P the commandment of the LORD is pure,

C **enlightening the eyes;**

P the fear of the LORD is clean,

C **enduring forever;**

P the just decrees of the LORD are true,

C **and righteous altogether.**

P More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;

C **sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.**

P Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

C **be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

ALL: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Epistle

1 Corinthians 10:1–4, 15–17

P The Epistle is from First Corinthians, the tenth chapter.

¹I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

¹⁵I speak as to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

P O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

↑ Verse: (422 On My Heart Imprint Your Image)

C On my heart imprint Your image,

Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,

That life's riches, cares, and pleasures

Never may Your work erase;

Let the clear inscription be:

Jesus, crucified for me,

Is my life, my hope's foundation,

And my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt. Public domain

Holy Gospel

John 6:32–37

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³²Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who 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 shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. ³⁶But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. ³⁷All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

918 Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer

- 1 Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more;
Feed me till I want no more.
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
- 3 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 of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Text: William Williams, 1717–91, abr.; (st. 1): tr. Peter Williams, 1722–96, alt.;
(sts. 2–3): tr. William Williams, 1717–91 Public domain

Sermon

Presentation of the Offering

↑ Prayers (780 O Lord, Hear My Prayer)

☐ O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
When I call answer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer;
Come and listen to me. (*Repeat*)

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Prayer

☐ O Lord, ☐ have mercy.

☐ O Christ, ☐ have mercy.

☐ O Lord, ☐ have mercy.

☐ O Christ, ☐ hear us.

☐ God the Father in heaven, ☐ have mercy.

☐ God the Son, Redeemer of the world, ☐ have mercy.

☐ God the Holy Spirit, ☐ have mercy.

L From all sin, from all error, from all evil; From the crafts and assaults of the devil; from sudden and evil death; From pestilence and famine; from war and bloodshed; from sedition and from rebellion; From lightning and tempest; from all calamity by fire and water; and from everlasting death:

C **Good Lord, deliver us.**

L By the mystery of Your holy incarnation; by Your holy nativity; By Your baptism, fasting, and temptation; by Your agony and bloody sweat; by Your cross and passion; by Your precious death and burial;

By Your glorious resurrection and ascension; and by the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

L In all time of our tribulation; in all time of our prosperity; in the hour of death; and in the day of judgment:

C **Help us, good Lord.**

L We poor sinners implore You

C **to hear us, O Lord.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **have mercy.**

L Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,

C **grant us Your peace.**

Lord's Prayer

P Lord, remember us in Your Kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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.

Luther's Evening Prayer

P In the Name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, we pray:

C I thank You, my heavenly Father,
through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son,
that You have graciously kept me this day;
and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins
where I have done wrong,
and graciously keep me this night.
For into Your hands I commend myself,
my body and soul, and all things.
Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Benediction

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

C Amen.

Closing Hymn: 887 Now the Light Has Gone Away *sts. 1–5*

- 1 Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,
Asking Thee to watch and keep And to send me quiet sleep.
- 2 Jesus, Savior, wash away All that has been wrong today;
Help me ev'ry day to be Good and gentle, more like Thee.
- 3 Let my near and dear ones be Always near and dear to Thee;
O bring me and all I love To Thy happy home above.
- 4 Now my evening praise I give; Thou didst die that I might live.
All my blessings come from Thee; Oh, how good Thou art to me!
- 5 Thou, my best and kindest Friend, Thou wilt love me to the end.
Let me love Thee more and more, Always better than before.

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