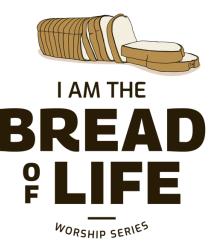


August 15 & 18, 2024 13th Sunday after Pentecost



The Bread that Gives Wisdom and Life

There are many different theories about the healthiest way to eat. There's the old food pyramid, built on a foundation of whole grains. There's the Mediterranean diet, the Atkins diet, the Paleo diet, and many others. We can debate which is best, but what is undebatable is that whatever your diet, you are going to die. Perhaps a vegetarian diet is indeed easier on your heart. Still, your heart is going to stop eventually. But in his Bead of Life discourse, Jesus offers food that enables us to live forever.

There are foods you might never have tasted without someone working hard to convince you to try them. Likewise, this spiritual food that Jesus describes is something no one finds appealing at first, but distasteful. And so today Jesus explains that we need God to work within us, so that we have the wisdom to see that this food gives life and the faith to find this bread most delicious.



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Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

- M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- C: Almighty and merciful Father, we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
 We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.
 We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Silence for meditation and reflection

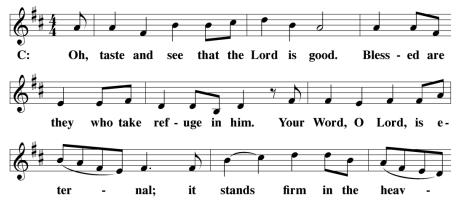
M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (T) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

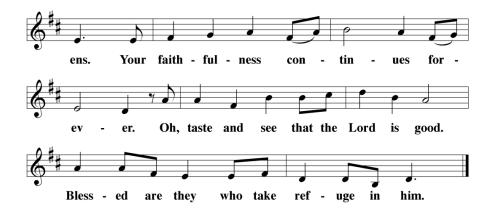
C: Amen.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Oh, Taste and See





Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray.

Gracious Father, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

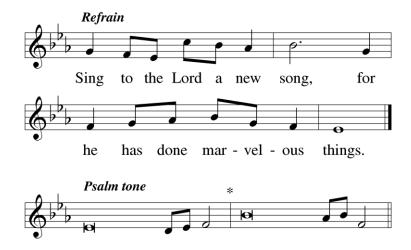
First Lesson

Proverbs 9:1-6

In this poetic reading, spiritual wisdom is personified as a kind woman. Lady Wisdom invites us to dine on the spiritual food that empowers us to truly live.

¹Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.
²She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.
³She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city, 4"Let all who are simple come to my house!"
To those who have no sense she says, ⁵"Come, eat my food and drink the wine I have mixed.
⁶Leave your simple ways and you will live; walk in the way of insight." (NIV)

Psalm of the Day



Great are the works <u>of</u> the LORD;* they are pondered by all who de<u>light</u> in them.

Glorious and majestic <u>are</u> his deeds,* and his righteousness endures for<u>ev</u>er.

He has caused his wonders to be re<u>mem</u>bered;* the LORD is gracious and com<u>pas</u>sionate.

Refrain

The works of his hands are faith<u>ful</u> and just;*

all his precepts are trust<u>worthy</u>.

He provided redemption for his <u>people</u>;*

he ordained his covenant for<u>ev</u>er.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of <u>wis</u>dom;*

all who follow his precepts have good under<u>stand</u>ing.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son*

and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it,
as it was in the beginning,*

is now, and will be forever. <u>Amen.</u>

Refrain

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Second Lesson

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

The Apostle Paul explains that we need a wisdom that only the Spirit can give, a wisdom that understands that in Christ we have the bread of life.

⁶We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷No, we declare God's wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. ⁸None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹However, as it is written:

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him—

¹⁰these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. ¹³This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. ¹⁴The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. ¹⁵The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, ¹⁶for,

"Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?"

But we have the mind of Christ. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. Alleluia. (John 6:44 NIV)

Stand

Gospel

Jesus declares that anyone wise enough to eat the bread of life will live forever.

³⁵Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ³⁶But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. ³⁷All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. ³⁸For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. ³⁹And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁰For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day."

⁴¹At this the Jews there began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

⁴³"Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. ⁴⁴"No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁴⁵It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard the Father and learned from him comes to me. ⁴⁶No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly I tell you, the one who believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. ⁵⁰But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated



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John 6:35-51 Pastor David Ruddat

Sermon

Stand

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Be Seated

Offering

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

- M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen

Benediction

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

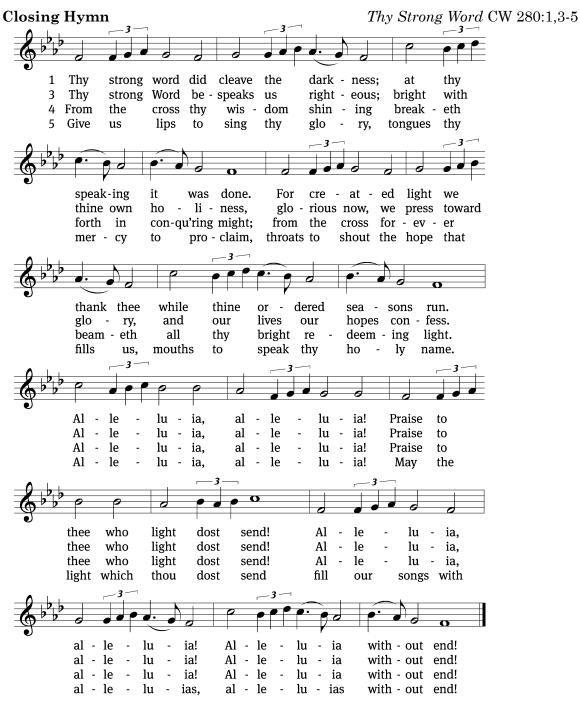
The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated



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