

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (vv24, 25)

Ephesians 4:1-16

John 6:24-35

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat & are satisfied. Fill us & this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 6:24-35

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats & went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. ²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus 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. ²⁷Do 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.” ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it & believe you? What work are you performing?” ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Then 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. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven & 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 will never be hungry, & whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. How does this passage compare to the following: *Matthew 6:19-21, 24-34; Luke 12:22-31; John 4:6-15?*
2. How does Jesus challenge & change the crowd’s perception of “work” (vv27-29)?
See (cf. Mark 10:17-22) John 1:10-13, 3:17-21; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 3:20-22, 28; Galatians 2:16, 3:10-14, 24; Ephesians 2:8-9; see also Hosea 6:6

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Jesus challenges the status quo (vv32-35). Think about the last five years in your congregation... how has a dead traditional-*ism* (a.k.a. “the way we’ve always done it”, not Christians traditions themselves) been confronted by a living faith? Think also about your personal life...how have you had to leave behind food that perishes for living bread? Don’t forget what Jesus says in *Matthew 5:17-19; Mark 3:1-6, 7:17-23*.
4. Building on #2, what difference does the gift-nature of eternal life make in your understanding of faithfulness? How do you verbally express this to others in your everyday life? *See Small Catechism: Creed* available < bookofconcord.org >

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. Christians are often accused of offering “pie in the sky in the sweet bye-and-bye” instead of real, meaningful material assistance to those in need. How does your congregation & its members actually serve those in need around you? Don’t overlook vocations (& jobs) of service &- for this specific question- taxes (but get specific on how those funds return to the community’s needy).
6. Now, how are those ways of “earthly bread” used to deliver the “heavenly bread”? Again, get specific. Which is more difficult for your congregation & its members: the earthly or heavenly bread? How about for you- how often do you offer non-believers (or former- or inactive-) the bread of heaven?

10th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: The Heavenly Meal

08.01.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Calls Us to Belief

What must we do? It's a gift- believe it!

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” (v29)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. (*Matthew 4:4*)

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