

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

1 Kings 19:4-8

Psalm 34:1-8

Taste & see that the Lord is good. (v8)

Ephesians 4:25--5:2

John 6:35, 41-51

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Gracious God, 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 & we in him, & that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 6:35, 41-51

³⁵Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, & 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 & 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; & 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 & 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, & they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it & not die. ⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; & the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. How does the *Ephesians* reading connect with *vv49-51, esp. Ephesians 4:29, 32*?
2. How does this passage anticipate what happens in *11:1-57*?

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

3. Consider Elijah’s plight in *1 Kings 19:4-8* (skim & review *chapters 17-18*). How is God’s angelic meal for him objectively encouraging without being psychological & therapeutic?
4. Now consider the Large Catechism: V 23-27, 35, 70-72; how is the Sacrament of the Altar objectively encouraging without basing things on one’s feelings of authenticity? LC available < bookofconcord.org >

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

5. *Psalm 34:8* invites you to “taste & see that the Lord is good”; in other words, God’s goodness is hands-on, enjoyable, & pleasing. How does your congregation allow the neighborhood to taste & see? Consider both earthly & heavenly things. How does this tasting & seeing point these neighbors to eternal life?
6. What ways of the world, so to speak, are prevalent among your neighbors at home & work that lead to death (*v49*)? How does your faith (show &) tell them of ways of life? How can you gracefully engage them to speak about these things? How can you be sure to listen before speaking, so the words they hear are words of life (*v68*) & not prepackaged solutions? In other words, don’t assume you know what’s best or that you can fix things for them.

11th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: The Heavenly Meal

08.08.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Points Us to Jesus

*We “misunderestimate” Jesus if we think he is anything other than
truly God & truly human*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is
from God; he has seen the Father. (v46)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

I am the living bread that came down from heaven.
Whoever eats this bread will live forever. (*John 6:51*)

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