

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous. (v15)

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices & preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false & evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior & Lord. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 6:56-69

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh & drink my blood abide in me, & I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, & 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, & they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit & life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, & who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back & no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe & know that you are the Holy One of God.”

LISTENING TO . . .

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

1. God already called Abraham away from the gods of the Chaldeans/Babylonians; he defeated the Egyptians & their gods; & he defeated the Canaanites & their gods. What is ironic about the choice Joshua gives the Israelites, now finally in the Promised Land, if they reject God (*Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18*)? *Read the skipped verses & their footnotes for extra context.*
2. How does the Old Testament reading (*Joshua 24*) connect with this portion of *John 6*? What do *John 5:16-24, 39-47, 8:12-59* add to the decision to desert Jesus & choose something else?

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

3. In addition to your Baptism, how do you experience Jesus' words of life? *See Small Catechism: Confession thru Table of Duties to help frame your thinking.* Think of at least five times Jesus has renewed your life. Share at least 3 of them. *SC available < bookofconcord.org >*
4. “The sinful flesh, which lusts for bread rather than the things of God (v 26), cannot help in spiritual matters.¹⁷ What (base) earthly things in your life are making your spiritual life difficult? List at least five. Confess the things that need to be confessed, & hear forgiveness from your pastor. What small, simple steps can you take in each situation to regain appropriate control? What passages of scripture will be helpful to bring you new life in the matters?

¹⁷Footnote John 6:63. Various Authors. The Lutheran Study Bible . Concordia Publishing House. Kindle Edition.

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

5. Review the parable of the soils (*Mark 4:3-8, 13-20*). At the end of the day, other's belief/faith is not up to us, but to the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3). How many people have you brought to Jesus who then walked away? Be honest, even about family. What does your lack of “success” in making a “convert” (ala Billy Graham) have to do with the big picture? *See Joel 2:13; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9; 2 Peter 3:9*
6. A common criticism of Christians by non-Christians is the amount of complaining the Christians do about, well, everything in their congregations. Eventually the non-Christians decide, “Why bother?” How can you be a source of positivity & missional agreement (part of the crew) in your congregation's life? How can you maintain this team spirit even when you don't get your way? This kind of missional enthusiasm is contagious.

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13th Sunday after Pentecost
Series: The Heavenly Meal

08.22.21
Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Invites Us to Follow

*Go to him with the words of life or choose between various deadly
dilemmas, predicaments, & quagmires*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: The words that I have spoken to you are spirit & life.
But among you there are some who do not believe. (*vv63b-64*)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.
(*John 6:68*)

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