

Sunday August 1, 2021
Food that Endures for Eternal Life

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: You call your people to prayer and praise in many ways.
This day, bring us together just as you called the people of Israel
to gather manna in the desert to eat and sustain life.

People: **God of unity, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: Offer us the nutrients we need to remain connected to you.
As spiritual beings, we desire to receive food that endures—
faith, hope, and love.

People: **God of grace, give us this day our daily bread.**

Leader: All life is created and nourished by you!
May we grow into new circles of understanding and being,
reflecting the ways in which we have been touched by your holy manna.

People: **Holy Spirit, come! Give us this day our daily bread.**

Opening Prayer **Unison**

**Life Sustainer, we receive the things you desire to offer us
today and each new day!
Grant us wisdom and openness to your Word
and use its teachings to energize our bodies and spirits. Amen.**

Hymn #18: Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer
(Please see separate attachment for the score)

Hymn Leader: Ken Littlefield

- 1) Guide me, O my great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your powerful 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,
where the healing waters flow.
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
ever be my strength and shield,
ever be my strength and shield.

- 3) When I reach the River Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside.
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on heaven's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever sing to you,
I will ever sing to you.

Prayer of Confession **Unison**

God, we confess that we often spoon-feed ourselves items and ideas that do not provide us the energy we need to do your work. This creates space between you and us, between ourselves and each other, as members of Christ's one body. Oftentimes, we are willing to risk our sustained health and well-being for immediate satisfaction. Guide into your ways of wisdom and love.

Moments for Reflection and Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Through Jesus, we have been given an example of one who was truly nourished and sustained by God. In Christ, we are forgiven, made whole, and restored to the one body. Let us outwardly profess our Christian unity by offering each other a sign of peace.

Passing of the Peace

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you
People: **And also with you!**

Reading

Karen Jones

Psalm 78:23-29 (NIV)

78:23 Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven;

78:24 he rained down on them manna to eat, and gave them the grain of heaven.

78:25 Mortals ate of the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance.

78:26 He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;

78:27 he rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas;

78:28 he let them fall within their camp, all around their dwellings.

78:29 And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

Special Music

Ken Littlefield

Gospel Reading

John 6:24-35 (NIV)

6:24 So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

6:25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?"

6:26 Jesus 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.

6:27 Do 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."

6:28 Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?"

6:29 Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent."

6:30 So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?"

6:31 Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'"

6:32 Then 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.

6:33 For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

6:34 They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

6:35 Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Musical Interlude

Sermon: Food that Endures for Eternal Life

Music for Meditation

Prayers of the People

Hymn #537 Christian, Rise and Act Your Creed (verses 1 and 2)

**1) Christian, rise and act your creed;
let your prayer be in your deed;
Seek the right, perform the true,
raise your work and life anew.**

**2) Hearts around you sink with care,
you can help their load to bear;
You can bring inspiring light,
strengthen them to do the right.**

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer **Unison**

Offering Invitation

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Let us offer our loaves and fishes in the service of God's kin-dom.

Offering and Dedication **Unison**

O God, we share these gifts in the spirit of those who shared their loaves and fishes: we ask that you take these gifts and use them to feed all of creation—to produce seed and grain, filling humans and animals alike, and to restore wholeness in the places where malnourishment exists.

Service of Holy Communion

Invitation

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Communion Prayer **Unison**

As we eat this meal together and as we drink this juice of life in each other's presence grant unto us an emerging, fulfilling, and redeeming sense of life calling. In this holy meal of communion, we feel the allure and enticement of fellowship enriching us and making us more able to serve you and your ends in life. With eternal gratitude we give you thanks. Amen.

Benediction **Unison**

**Let us go forth in faith in our Nonperishable God,
who gives us daily what we need to feed our bodies and spirits.
Our common need for nourishment
unites us together as the body of Christ.
May the holy Bread of Life create
sustenance for the journey,
calm for troubled stomachs,
grace-filled movement for aching limbs,
and joyful activity for all bodies
as we seek to live in sacred community. Amen.**