

Service of Worship and Holy Communion on Sunday, August 1, 2021

Welcome

Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day In the past ten years the cost of school supplies increased:

a) 25% b) 47% c) 63% d) 88%

Call to Worship

We do not live by bread alone,

but by the Word who became flesh and dwells among us.

Christ is the true bread of heaven, the manna of freedom.

Come, let us worship and give thanks.

Prayer of Invocation

We hear you calling us, loving God, to a life of humility, gentleness, and patience. Keep your call before us in this hour that we may recognize and celebrate our oneness in Jesus Christ. May your Spirit unite us in the bond of peace and lead us into new depths of trust beyond our knowing, and along new pathways of service. Amen.

Hymn “Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

John 6:24-35 *The Message*

The next day the crowd that was left behind realized that there had been only one boat, and that Jesus had not gotten into it with his disciples. They had seen them go off without him. By now boats from Tiberias had pulled up near where they had eaten the bread blessed by the Master. So when the crowd realized he was gone and wasn't coming back, they piled into the Tiberias boats and headed for Capernaum, looking for Jesus.

When they found him back across the sea, they said, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”

Jesus answered, “You've come looking for me not because you saw God in my actions but because I fed you, filled your stomachs – and for free.

“Don't waste your energy striving for perishable food like that. Work for the food that sticks with you, food that nourishes your lasting life, food the Son of Man provides. He and what he does are guaranteed by God the Father to last.”

To that they said, “Well, what do we do then to get in on God's works?”

Jesus said, “Throw your lot in with the One that God has sent. That kind of a commitment gets you in on God's works.”

They waffled: “Why don't you give us a clue about who you are, just a hint of what's going on? When we see what's up, we'll commit ourselves. Show us what you can do. Moses fed our ancestors with bread in the desert. It says so in the Scriptures: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

Jesus responded, “The real significance of that Scripture is not that Moses gave you bread from heaven but that my Father is right now offering you bread from heaven, the *real* bread. The Bread of God came down out of heaven and is giving life to the world.”

They jumped at that: “Master, give us this bread, now and forever!”

Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life. The person who aligns with me hungers no more and thirsts no more, ever.”

Ephesians 4:1-16 *New Revised Standard Version*

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Hymn "One Bread, One Body"

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Call to Confession

Let us repent and seek God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

(Time of Silent Prayer)

Holy One, we confess our sins and pray for your forgiveness. God, change us. Put the Spirit of Christ within us and cause us to grow into mature, faithful disciples of the one who came from you to save us from our sin. Free us from captivity to our selfishness, bind us to the whole body of Christ, and let us bear witness to the truth that your love holds everything together in perfect unity. We pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance

The bread of life God sends is the offering of the only begotten Son. Whoever comes to believe in Jesus Christ shall never be hungry; whoever believes in him shall never thirst. Believe this good news: in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

Answer to the Question of the Day

Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

Offering Prayer

Lord, we dedicate our offerings, not alone for the good they can accomplish and the mission they will support, but also because giving helps us to gain perspective on what really matters. May we continually seek the Bread of Life, the food that endures for eternal life, and be built up in love for one another and for all your children everywhere. Amen.

Sermon "What Are You Looking For?" Rev. Joyce Rich

Holy Communion *Have your bread and cup ready.*

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Blessed are you, O God, who with your Word and Holy Spirit created all things and called them good. In Jesus Christ your Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Through Jesus' suffering and death you took upon yourself our sin and death and destroyed their power for ever. You raised from the dead this same Jesus, who now reigns with you in glory, and poured upon us your Holy Spirit, making us the people of your covenant.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

On the night before meeting with death Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over Jesus took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to the disciples, and said: **"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,**

poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and upon these gifts, that in the breaking of this bread and the drinking of this cup we may know the presence of the living Christ and be renewed as the body of Christ for the world, redeemed by Christ's blood, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at your table for ever. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray together:

The 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. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Prayer After Receiving

Holy God, may these gifts continue to draw all into the community of your kingdom of love. Help us to share the grace and peace of Christ. Amen.

Commission and Blessing

Creator of unity, Body of peace, Spirit of Community,

bind us together around your Word

and send us out to do your justice,

show your mercy,

and embody your redeeming love,

now and always.

Amen. **And Amen.**

Hymn “Jesus Messiah”

Announcements

Readings For Next Week: John 6:35, 41-51; Ephesians 4:25—5:2

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Led by Love: Worship Resources for Year B**, Lavon Bayler © 1996 United Church Press; **Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 2**, Kimberly Bracken Long, editor © 2015 Westminster John Knox Press; and **The United Methodist Book of Worship** © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House.*