

AUGUST 4, 2024
ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus is the bread of life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 6:24-35	Christ, the bread of life
Monday	Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15	Raining bread from heaven
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:1-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Wednesday	1 Corinthians 1:3-9	Greetings to the Corinthians
Thursday	Psalms 55:16-19	Betrayed by a friend
Friday	Acts 6:1-7	Seven chosen to serve
Saturday	Psalms 78:23-29	God feeds the people
Sunday	John 6:35, 41-51	Bread from heaven

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I [the LORD] have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

Exodus 16:12 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Living God, we thank you that even when we complain and do not see your goodness in our midst, you respond to our cries for help through Christ Jesus, our bread of life. Amen.

Mealttime Prayer:

Dear God, as we receive this food, help us to remember with thanksgiving all your good gifts to us through Christ Jesus our Lord and our bread of life. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of life, fill you with good things.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Drawn to the Light



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that happened recently that you did not understand?
- If you could complain to Jesus about something, what would it be?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:24-35 and Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15.

In both readings people lack understanding. In John 6, the crowds witness the miracles but do not see the signs as leading them to believe in Jesus as the one God has sent. In Exodus 16, the people do not understand what they have just experienced. They do not remember that God just delivered them out of a harsh life in Egypt. Instead, they incorrectly recall living the good life in Egypt when they ate their fill of meat and bread. Nor do they initially grasp that God answers their complaining by giving them bread to eat. Exodus 16 gives a biblical understanding of our human condition. We have short memories and forget God's goodness to us. We become fearful because of it, and we end up complaining and being unfaithful to God. Moses and Jesus show God's saving presence that overcomes ignorance, complaining, and fears. In John 6, to trust in God is to believe that Jesus is the one sent by God as the bread of life to respond to our needs (v. 35).

Discuss: When have you felt that Jesus, the bread of life, has responded to your needs?

Pray: **Ever-present God, help us to see and trust that your saving work is in our midst so that we may not fear, complain, or forget your goodness to us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, how can you help someone overcome something that worries them?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Ephesians 4 states that the leaders in the congregation, are "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (vv. 11-12). Pastors and staff are not the only ministers. All people are ministers to build up one another in faith by "speaking the truth in love" so that all may "grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ" (v. 15). Draw the outline of a body on a sheet of paper. Name spiritual gifts (talents) that you or others you know have. Write them inside the body.

Then pray: **May the Holy Spirit give us the faith and the gifts to grow together in care for one another through Christ our Lord. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org