

AUGUST 18, 2024
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus came to give us eternal life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

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| Sunday | John 6:51-58 | Christ, the true food and drink |
| Monday | Proverbs 9:1-6 | Wisdom's feast |
| Tuesday | Ephesians 5:15-20 | Be filled with the Holy Spirit |
| Wednesday | Matthew 26:26-30 | The Lord's Supper |
| Thursday | Exodus 16:27-36 | Bread from heaven |
| Friday | 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 | The Lord's Supper |
| Saturday | Psalms 34:9-14 | God teaches the fear of the Lord |
| Sunday | John 6:56-69 | Many disciples desert Jesus |

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day." John 6:54 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Eternal God, give us wisdom to receive Jesus, the one who comes as the bread of life to fill us with life and love and hope. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for this meal; let it remind us of Jesus, the bread of life, who has come into our lives to give us joy that knows no end. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May you be filled with the joy of Jesus dwelling in you.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

*All Who Hunger,
Gather Gladly*



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:

- Tell about or reflect on a special meal you had with others. What made that meal special?
- If Jesus was your guest at a meal, what would you ask him?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Proverbs 9:1-6 and John 6:51-58.

In Proverbs 9, we are invited to enjoy a feast that offers not only food and drink but the pleasure of walking in the ways of God, *"the way of insight"* (v. 6). In John 6, Jesus invites people to feast on the wisdom of God embodied in him, *"the Word made flesh"* (John 1:14). Jesus' words have an obvious connection to the Lord's Supper, the last meal with his disciples before his death. Instead of retelling the story of the last supper as is done in Luke, Matthew, and 1 Corinthians, this reading in John 6 gives us the meaning of the Lord's Supper. As we feast on Jesus, the bread of life, we live a life that dwells in his presence. We abide in him and he in us. The life God intends for us is eternal life. It is a life that knows no end. When we partake of the Lord's Supper, we receive a way of life filled with divine wisdom, goodness, and mercy. It is what Jesus came to give us.

Discuss: What does the Lord's Supper mean to you?

Pray: **Living God, we thank you for Jesus, the bread of life, who gives us the meal that grants us eternal life through your divine wisdom, goodness, and mercy. Amen.**

SERVICE



Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme for this week, plan a meal for others to enjoy, especially those in need of encouragement.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The texts this week focus on living wisely and enjoying life that is experienced in the presence of God. In Proverbs 9:6, wisdom is described as walking *"in the way of insight."* Go for a walk and pay attention to what you can notice through your senses. What do you smell, see, hear, touch, and even taste that fill the space you are in? How does awareness of your senses and what you have experienced enrich your life today as a gift of our gracious God?

Pray: **Creator God, for all that you give to us, help us to be aware and thankful. In Jesus' name, amen.**



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