

The Gospel According to Bread
Week 2: "Give us this bread always"
August 4, 2024



Pilgrim Lutheran Church

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Our Mission

Journeying together in love for God and for all people.

Our Vision

A world where all people will experience love
and know their value in the eyes of God.

Welcome to Worship!
INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

What Are You Longing For?

In a world filled with seemingly endless options and an overload of information, it can be hard to know what we really want, and even harder to know what we actually need. As a society we are perhaps more mobile and more connected than ever. For those with a certain level of privilege, opportunities abound for careers, for education, for travel. Many of us own more stuff than we can reasonably use or even store in our homes. And yet, our collective mental health and overall well-being might be worse than ever. What are we missing? In a society of excess, what needs are going unfulfilled? What are we still longing for?

The crowds didn't seem to know what they were longing for either. They came to Jesus seeking more loaves of bread (a fair request!) but missed their deeper need: spiritual nourishment. They asked for the thing that could satisfy their hunger pangs, but almost missed out on the food that could transform not only their lives but the whole world. They almost settled for the "food that perishes" when they were being offered the Bread of life.

Jesus recognizes our hunger and offers himself as the ultimate nourishment for our deepest needs. Jesus is not fooled by our distractedness, our quick fixes, our tendency to gravitate toward things that will never truly satisfy. He seeks us out, offering his body for our sake— our ultimate sustenance, giving us all we need for the journey ahead.

The distractions in our world are many, so we need to be reoriented regularly to Christ's gift for us. We celebrate this gift each time we gather at the communion table to receive Christ himself: bread that fulfills our deepest longings for relationship with God and one another. Nourished with this gift of life, we, too, are sent forth as bread for a world in need.

ELW = red hymnal ACS = purple hymnal

Gathering

The Holy spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

WE ADMIT OUR SINS

Jesus, you spread out your arms to welcome the world. And then you tell us to feed them.
But we struggle with your command.

We find the seed of doubt growing in our hearts:

What is our compassion among so much pain?

What is our small kindness in a system of injustice?

What is one act of reconciliation in a divided society?

How can so little food feed so many hungry mouths?

We have simply forgotten: when you ask us to feed the world, you always provide the bread.

Even when we have tasted the bread you multiply;
even when we gather your leftovers,
we still find ourselves between your wondrous power and our sinful reality.

WE PLEAD FOR GOD'S FORGIVENESS

So we ask for your forgiveness.

When you call for our faith, forgive our unbelief.

As you prepare our heavenly dwelling, forgive our earthly worries.

When you offer us armfuls of food that satisfies, forgive our appetite for unhealthy fare.

When your gospel challenges us, forgive our irritable complaints.

You are patient with us even when we prove fussy and doubtful, reluctant and argumentative.

How often do we act this way just because we are hungry?

WE RECEIVE GOD'S IMMEDIATE FORGIVENESS

...You are forgiven.

God, give us this bread always.

Gathering Hymn

*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
Verses 1-4, 8*

ELW 362

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Bread of Life,
you have fed us before.
Somehow we are still hungry.
You will feed us today.
Tomorrow we will hunger again.
Feed us every time we hunger.
Even before we know we are hungry
—even before we understand what satisfies—
you have set the table.

Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

After the reading: Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 78:23-29 *Spoken responsively*

- ²³ So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,
²⁴ **raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.**
²⁵ So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.
²⁶ **The Lord caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,**
²⁷ raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,
²⁸ **letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.**
²⁹ So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

After the reading: Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

Before the reading: The holy gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After the reading: The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

VBS Music *"Manna in the Morning"*

Sermon

Pastor Mike Opfermann

Prayers of Intercession

We respond to each petition: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

At this time, we share God's peace with our neighbors. Congregation is then seated for the offering.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

The table is prepared as offering and worship record cards are collected and brought forward.

You can now give securely online through Tithe.ly. Simply scan this QR code with you phone's camera, click on the link, and give as you feel led.



Presentation of Gifts

We sing in a two-part canon with Group 1: Piano side, then Group 2: Pulpit side entering a measure later.



1. Come, let us bring the warm and fra - grant bread.
2. Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun - dant wine.
3. Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Come, let us bring the warm and fra - grant bread.
Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun - dant wine.
Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.



Bro - ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.

Offering Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life,
you have set this table with your very self,
and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us,
and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

Please open to ELW 472-474 for the Communion Liturgy during our Bread of Life series.
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

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

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy (Argentine): Santo, santo, santo

ELW 473

Eucharistic Prayer

God of all, mighty and merciful, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

...Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and stir in us a hunger for justice and thirst for compassion.
Open wide your hand
and satisfy our deep desire—
feed us with the Bread that is you.
All honor and glory to you, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

Acclamation

Bread of Life From Heaven
sing Refrain, stanza 2, repeat Refrain

ELW 474

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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 and ever. Amen.

Words of Welcome: Holden Smith's First Communion

...Let us welcome our friends to Holy Communion.

Welcome to Jesus' table!

We rejoice with you and thank God for you!

Enjoy this meal that strengthens us to live as Jesus did.

Invitation to Communion

Eat This Bread

ELW 472

stanza 1: Pastor; stanza 2: ALL

Communion

All are welcome to Christ's table!

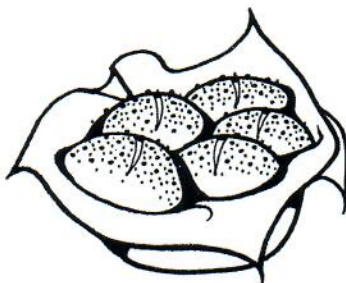
In this meal, we meet Jesus and the expansive life He brings. An usher will invite you forward to receive bread from Pastor. You can then receive red wine from the chalice or an individual cup. White grape juice is also available in individual cups. As you return down the side aisle, you may dispose of your cup in the basket. If you would like to receive communion from Pastor, but are unable to come up front, please let an usher know and Pastor will come to you.

Bread Around the World

Our communion bread today was baked by Holden Smith as part of his first communion class. Here is a little more information about this beloved communion bread:

"Luther Seminary's communion bread recipe has been used here for more than 25 years. It is baked by Luther Seminary dining services staff and served as part of their weekly Holy Communion service in chapel each Wednesday.

This recipe is known throughout the country as one of the best tasting and easiest to make. It's become quite popular! In July 2012 Luther Seminary dining services staff baked an estimated 1,900 loaves and Fed-Ex-ed them to the ELCA's youth gathering in New Orleans for their Sunday Eucharist!"



Communion Songs

Be Known to Us



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Here Is Bread
One Bread, One Body

ELW 483

ELW 496

Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

Song After Communion

By Your Hand

Verses



1. By your hand you feed your peo - ple food of
2. In this meal we taste your sweet - ness, bread for
3. Send us now with faith and cour - age to the



an - gels, heav - en's bread. For these gifts we did not
hun - ger, wine of peace. Ho - ly word and Ho - ly
hun - gry, lost, be - reaved. In our liv - ing and our



la - bor; by your grace have we been fed.
wis - dom, sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
dy - ing we be - come what we re - ceive:

Refrain



Christ's own bod - y, blest and bro - ken, Cup o'er -



flow - ing, life out - poured, giv - en as a liv - ing



to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Prayer after Communion

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world
with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending of Communion

Announcements

Blessing

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

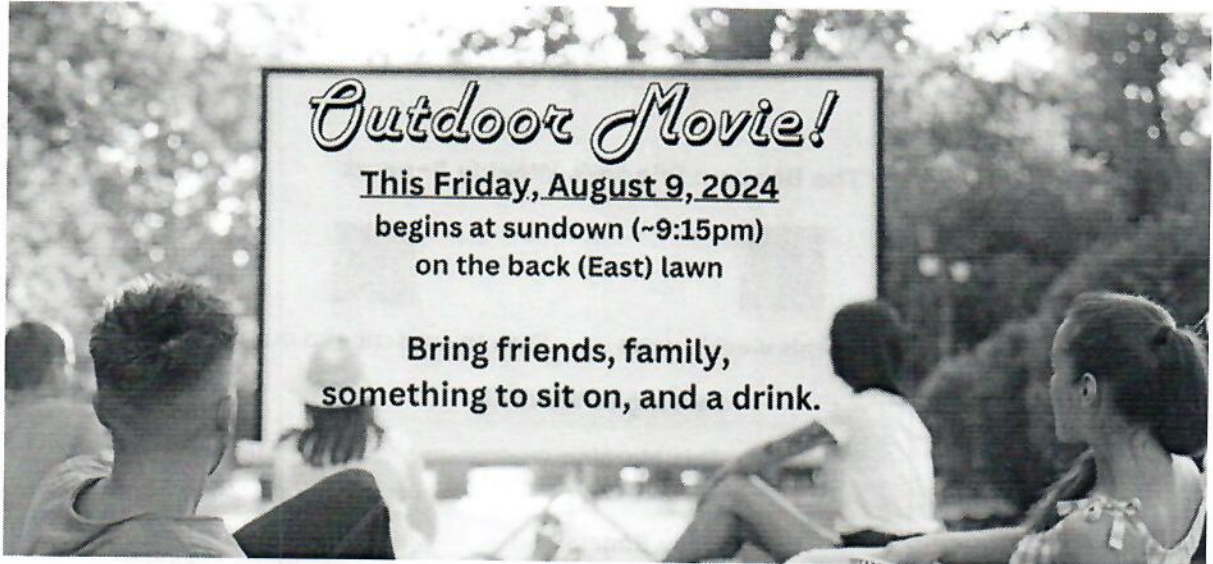
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Serving in Worship

	This Morning Aug 4	Next Sunday Aug 11
Musician:	Cindy Rogers	Michelle Carlson
Worship Assistant:	Nadine LaGruth	Madonna Lukitsch
Worship Coordinator:	Doug Vernier	Sue Winzeler
Usher:	Doreen Vernier	Robie Clearwood
Acolyte:	Jacob Smith	Ava DeShon
Reader:	Mike McCarthy	Ella Carlson
Communion Assistant:	Alison Jackson	Rick Carlson
Greeters:	Everette Yaek	Karen McCormick
Coffee Bar Attendant:	Jenifer Kusch	Karen McCormick
Coffee With Luther Host:	Kerry Nutty	OPEN
Altar Guild:	Colleen Schenck	Gale Smith
	Judy M. & Barb H	Jenna Jackson
Bread Baker:	Holden Smith	Tony G. & Kathi D.
Offering Tellers:	Peggi Starkey	Fred Russell
	Nadine LaGruth	Jean Russell

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers are given in honor of Holden Smith's First Communion, by Kerry & Greg Nutty.

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WIFI: PILGRIM Password: YouAreLoved

Next Week's Texts

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

