

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

2001 Windsor Drive

P.O. Box 342

Newton, Kansas 67114



Sunday, August 1, 2021

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Communion in the Absence of a Priest

Worship at 10:15am

Prelude

Chris Teichler

Processional

“O Day of Radiant Gladness”

Pg. 48

Opening Acclamation

**Minister of the Word:** Grace and peace. In the name of Christ.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

The Collect of the Day

**Minister of the Word:** God be with you

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Minister of the Word:** Let us pray.

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

We Proclaim and Respond to the Word of God

The Lessons

The First Reading

Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A reading from Exodus

The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. The LORD spoke to Moses and said, “I 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.’” In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 78:23-29

So, he commanded the clouds above \* and opened the doors of heaven.

He rained down manna upon them to eat \* and gave them grain from heaven.

So, mortals ate the bread of angels; \* he provided for them food enough.

He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens \* and led out the south wind by his might.

He rained down flesh upon them like dust \* and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

He let it fall in the midst of their camp \* and round about their dwellings.

So, they ate and were filled, \* for he gave them what they craved.

### The Second Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

A reading from Ephesians

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

**Thanks be to God.**

Seq.            “Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken”

Pg. 523, 1 & 2

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Gospel**

**John 6: 24-35**

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. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 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. 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.”

Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 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? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” 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. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Seq.           *“Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken” Pg. 523, 3 & 4*

**Proclamation**

**Mary Anne McCloud**

A deep spiritual hunger is implanted in every human heart. Different people will seek to fill this need in different ways, but the hunger is not unique. People yearn for a deeper connection, an eternal spiritual connection, and when that is lacking will seek any means to satisfy the hungry.

Jesus said he came that we might have life abundantly. Yet, he who offered fullness of joy was often met by people with simpler, lesser needs. In the fifth chapter of John’s gospel, Jesus met a Samaritan woman who longed for living water so she wouldn’t have to keep returning to the well each day. Jesus started with that basic need and used it to forge a relationship with her that ended with the woman reconnected to God and to others in her community.

In our gospel reading for today, Jesus has met the immediate needs of a host of people. Those remaining after he fed 5,000 with a little fish and bread seek out Jesus. Jesus tells them, “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.”

The previous day, Jesus fed their physical hunger with bread and fish, and the crowd sought him out once more. Jesus points them to their spiritual hunger, which is what he really wanted to fill. After all, the people were created to love God and love others as they loved themselves, and in chasing after other needs, they risked getting further from the real nourishment they needed.

Jesus compares this to the original bread from heaven, manna, with which God miraculously fed the children of Israel for 40 years in an uninhabitable wasteland. This was the daily bread that would come anew each morning, with enough to last the day and a double portion for the Sabbath. Now Jesus compares the daily bread of manna, which God gave in the desert, to the Bread of Life, which God offers in Jesus Christ. Jesus says, “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

Jesus offers nourishment, which goes to the heart of our most basic human need to fill a spiritual hunger. Having been created to be in relationship with God, without that connection, we can feel empty. It is an easy move to connect Jesus referring to himself as the Bread of Life to the Eucharist. For in the mystery of the Eucharistic feast we eat the bread and drink the wine, and in so doing we partake of the body and blood of Jesus. But we don’t want to jump to that correct response so quickly that we miss the bigger picture.

This discourse comes when Jesus has two more years of ministry ahead of him. In fact, this is, after all, John Chapter 6, out of 21 chapters. There is much more time left in Jesus’ ministry before he gets to that last meal with his disciples. John’s gospel makes clear what the other three gospels only hint at: the Eucharist is not about Jesus’ death alone. Jesus’ self-giving act in communion is not only concerned with the Last Supper, the cross and the empty tomb alone. Jesus’ whole life, rather than just one or two events, will institute the sacrament of communion.

Put differently, faith is not in Jesus’ death and resurrection alone, but in Jesus’ whole life – from Bethlehem to Golgotha, and beyond to an empty tomb in a garden, Jesus’ appearances to his disciples, and his ascension to heaven. Everything Jesus did – who Jesus was and how he acted – are part of God’s revelation to us. We cannot separate one part of his life from the rest. Nor should we have a Christian part of our lives separate from the rest of our lives. We are to take Jesus’ whole story and make it part of our whole story. This is much more than hearing the word, it is word and deed.

In baptism, we do not simply hear of Jesus' baptism, but water is poured over us as a sign that we are united with Christ through baptism. We don't just hear the story; we actually get wet. In the Eucharist, we don't merely listen to the words, "Take eat," but we get up, come to the altar rail to take and eat. It is not just the bread that we take, bless, break, and give. God took Jesus' whole life, blessed, broke it and gave it to us. We are to let that story of God's love for us take us, bless us, break us and give us back to the world.

Jesus wanted those who followed him after having their fill of fish and bread to discover real spiritual nourishment so that they would never hunger again. And yes, one is fed through the Eucharist, but this too is only part of the picture. Our Sunday worship is to be just a part of how we are fed spiritually.

Compare spiritual nourishment to food. Eating out once a week in a restaurant is not unusual. In fact, it is rare to find someone who eats out only once a week. But what if that was the only meal the person ate. Someone who goes back to their familiar seat in a restaurant week after week to enjoy their one meal of the week could never be nourished enough to make it through the remaining six days.

In the same way, common worship in church on Sunday is meant to be an important part of one's spiritual food and drink, but it will never sate your hunger if this is your whole plan for feeding you spirit. Fortunately, the Episcopal Church has a centuries-old norm of daily prayer that is well suited to filling this void. The Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer as found in the Book of Common Prayer are a wonderfully enriching daily devotion. When praying in this way, together with the daily scripture readings, one is better prepared to meet whatever comes. It is not that troubles never occur to people who pray and read their Bible; it's just that those who marinate daily in prayer and scripture are more connected to God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Then whatever comes, they can call on that connection.

For those looking for an easy way to get started, there is the very helpful "Forward Day by Day," which in booklet form or online offers a brief daily reflection to accompany the scripture readings. The booklet offers the same readings as those used in the Daily Office. Either way, you'll spend 15-20 minutes out of each day re-centering your life in the ground of your being, the God who made you and redeemed you. There is no better way to nourish your spiritual side than through a daily meal of prayer and scripture reading.

So much of our lives is spent working for the food that perishes. We must work to earn food, water, and shelter and all the extras that make life enjoyable. But we know there is more to life than the daily grind. For a fulfilled life, one should commit a portion of each day to prayer and reading the Bible, for that is the food that endures for eternal life and the gift of Jesus who came so that you might have abundant life.

## **We Pray for the World and the Church**

*The prayers may be led either by the Minister of the Word, a lector or other appointed petitioner.*

*Kneeling or standing as able*

As you made provision for the complaining congregation in the wilderness, feeding them with manna and giving them their fill; so, help us to know that you are our God:

**Mortals ate the bread of angels, and God provided food enough.**

Form and shape us, that we may lead lives worthy of our calling, with all humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another in love, and maintaining unity in the bond of peace:

**Mortals ate the bread of angels, and God provided food enough.**

We offer thanks for the gift of your Church especially for St. Matthew's in Newton and Trinity in El Dorado, for you have given us many shared resources for the health and growth of Christ's Body:

**Mortals ate the bread of angels, and God provided food enough.**

As the people followed Jesus to Capernaum seeking the food that endures to eternal life, help us to share the Good News we have received, and to offer Christ's sustenance to others:

**Mortals ate the bread of angels, and God provided food enough.**

We pray for those who are ill, bereaved, downcast or in any need or trouble, remembering especially those who have been commended to our care Amber, Barbara, Becky, Beth, Brooks, Bertha, Delinda. Danny, Dave, Denny, Elaine, Eldon, Ian, Jaden, Jean, Jeanette, Jerry, Jessica, Joan, Jonah, Kathleen, Kent, Leslie, Suzanne, Ralph, Robby, Robert. Tend the sick, Great Shepherd:

**Mortals ate the bread of angels, and God provided food enough.**



We come to you, the Bread of Life, for whoever comes will never be hungry, and whoever believes in you will never be thirsty; so, feed us with the true manna from heaven, even Jesus Christ our Lord:

**Mortals ate the bread of angels, and God provided food enough.**

Pray for the Church of the Province of Southeast Asia.

Pray for the people of the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Pray for Grace Episcopal Church, Ottawa, The Reverend Robert Harris, priest in residence, and their lay leadership.

For the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, for our Bishop Cathleen Bascom, for all bishops and ministers, and for all the holy people of God.

For Heartland Minster and their Shepherd, The Reverend Marc McDonald, Rector of St Andrews Episcopal Church, Emporia Kansas.

We give thanks for St. Matthew's and Trinity and pray for St. Matthew's Payee Program, Northridge Elementary School their teachers, staff, students and families, Priscilla's Pet Pantry, and all outreach of our churches.

Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**We Exchange the Peace**

**Minister of the Word:** The peace of Christ be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Instrumental Music**

**Chris Teichler**

## We Prepare the Table and Share the Gifts of God

**Minister of Reserved Sacrament:** God be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Minister of Reserved Sacrament:** Let us pray.

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

## The Lord's Prayer

And now our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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 of 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 for ever and ever. Amen**

## The Prayer of Humble Access

*The Minister of the Reserved Sacrament and People*

**We do not presume to come to this your Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your Table. But you are the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.**

**Minister of the Reserved Sacrament:** The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. *Amen*

Hymn

“Deck Thyself, my Soul with Gladness”

Pg. 339

### Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

**Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ Body. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. *Amen***

Recessional

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

Pg. 690

### Grace and Dismissal

**Minister of the Reserved Sacrament:** Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

Chris Teichler

Ministers this Service

Maggie Snow, Minister of Reserved Sacrament

Mary Anne McCloud, Minister of the Word

Fred Schroeder, Lector

Chris Teichler, Pianist