

August 1st, 2021 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost – Email/At Home Missal

The ZOOM link for today's service, which opens at 9.30 am on August 1st, 2021, can be found here

Sunday Worship August 1st, 2021 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.

Click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566578300?pwd=WnlrZ01zRXp3b3V0Q1RlTUx5RTlHZz09>

Meeting ID: 865 6657 8300

Passcode: 411838

You don't have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the "One tap mobile" option:

+12042727920,,86566578300#,,,,*411838# Canada

+14388097799,,86566578300#,,,,*411838# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

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Meeting ID: 865 6657 8300

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566578300?pwd=WnlrZ01zRXp3b3V0Q1RlTUx5RTlHZz09>

PASTORAL VISITS: Even though our church is closed, please know that our Interim Pastor Chun Zhang is available for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to him by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.

Thanksgiving for Our Presence on This Land:

Click Here: <https://youtu.be/SqEZLBrAu4c>

Gathering Hymn: ELW # 808 'Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/SNNani5BbPc>

(Title: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song; Text: © Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. Music: © Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved)

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all, in your home and in mine.

Prayer of the Day: O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

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

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.” (NRSV)
Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

Psalm: Psalm 78:23-29

So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,

**raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.**

So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.

**The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,**

raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,
**letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.**

So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.*

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The Second Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

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. (NRSV)

Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel according to John 6:24-35

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were beside the sea, 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." (NRSV)

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.***

Sermon: (Imagine Interim Pastor Chun Zhang's voice here)

Last week when I prepared my sermon I read an article online. In this article, the author mentioned a survey conducted by an ecumenical Christian organization. This survey asked young Christians, who either still stay in church or stop going to church after their Sunday School or confirmation, regarding their early age Christian education memory.

It was mainly a multiple-choice survey, but at the end, survey takers were asked to write down the most remembered teaching from their early age Christian education in only one sentence.

Guess, what is the most remembered teaching by our youth? Jesus loves me, yes I know? ... God loves the world so much? ... Love God and love your neighbors as yourself? ...

Nope, not any one of them. The most remembered teachings are tied by two answers: one is if you believe in Jesus you will go to heaven, if not you will go to hell. Another one is if you need anything pray hard to Jesus, he will give you what you ask.

Are these also your answer?

In the article I mentioned before, the author interviewed some youth who dropped out of church after confirmation. There is one particular young man's answer that got me. When being asking why he stops going to church, he said: "As I think back to those days I realize that I didn't know a thing about Jesus. So what motivated me to accept him? Simply because I was afraid of going to hell and I want Jesus to help me.

Later, this youth added: "As I grew up and learned more about healthy friendships, I began to be troubled. You see, I was taught that you don't use people. In my family, 'using people' was defined as a relationship that one entered into only for what the other could do for them. That was wrong. And yet, that was the relationship I was encouraged to have with Jesus. Become a friend of Jesus so that you can go to heaven when you die."

"I don't like this relationship, and I don't think Jesus would like it either." This young guy concluded.

He is right; Jesus doesn't like this kind of relationship either. And we can learn it from today's Gospel reading. Backing up just a bit, we see that today's gospel text is connected to the feeding of the 5,000 in John 6:1-15. In verse 23 we are told that when people couldn't find Jesus or his disciples, they traveled a long way to Capernaum to search for Jesus.

But what did Jesus say to them when they finally found him? Jesus said, "Very truly I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw the signs I performed but because you ate the loaves and had your fill."

It's not that food is not important. It's just that chasing after food, as if it is all that is important, misses a crucial piece of what God is up to through Jesus. If the people don't stop thinking exclusively about manna and bread to fill their stomachs, which will spoil and rot, they are going to miss out on the fullness of what Jesus is coming to bring! They will end up using Jesus for bread to eat but missing out on the Bread of Life.

What Jesus wants to bring is nothing less than the full realization of God's grace, which God intended from the beginning. That grace includes empty stomachs getting filled, but it is much, much more than that.

The questions are, what bread are we seeking from Jesus? And what kind of friends do we want to be with Jesus? In John 15:14 Jesus told his followers "You are my friends if you do what I command you." And what was that command? In John 13:34 to 35 Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

Now, are we ready to show the world that we are followers of Jesus, and show the world our love, for we all know that love has come. Amen

Hymn of the Day: ELW # 292 'Love Has Come' (Debbie Lou Ludolph – vocal, Bradley Moggach – piano)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/V9Xw4KrnCzQ>

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Prayers of Intercession:

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You hear the cries of those who call to you for healing. Strengthen those who feel faint, give courage to those who fear, and bring wholeness to those in need especially Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Sharon and Bryan. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God. ***Your mercy is great.***

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen***

Share the peace of Christ:

The Peace of Christ be with you always, in your home and in mine, and throughout God's creation.

You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.

Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:

<https://youtu.be/-RnRfJoYmjs>

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

Blessing:

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

Sending Hymn: ELW # 422 'For All the Saints' (Bradley Moggach – organ)

Click here: <https://youtu.be/FwezIPVjCg0>

(Title: *For All the Saints*; Text: William W. How, 1823-1897; Public Domain; Music: © Oxford University Press All rights reserved. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)

Dismissal:

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