

AUGUST 5, 2018
ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking† faith home

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	Bread from heaven
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:1-16	Unity in the body of Christ
Wednesday	Matthew 6:9-13	The Lord's Prayer
Thursday	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	You do not live by bread alone
Friday	Isaiah 55:1-11	The abundant life
Saturday	Psalms 78:23-29	God feeds the people
Sunday	John 6:35, 41-51	Bread from heaven

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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."

John 6:35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, we come to you to be fed. Fill us that we may do the work of God by believing in you. Amen. (John 6:29, 35)

Mealtime Prayer:

Jesus, bread of life, feed us, body and soul. Jesus, bread from heaven, come and make us whole. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of life, fill you with faith, hope, and love now and always. (John 6:29, 35)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
Eat This Bread

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CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a time you were really hungry.
- Jesus called himself the bread of life. He said that those who come to him will never go hungry. What do you think he meant?
- Without food, hunger is something that can happen to us every day. How are you fed by Jesus, the bread of life, so you do not experience spiritual hunger?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Ephesians 4:1-16.

Leaders in the church identified in the text as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers are "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (v. 12). Church leaders are not the only ministers in the church. All people in the church 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). This promotes the growth of the whole church (v. 16). Reflect on how you can use your spiritual gifts and speak the truth in love to serve others to strengthen the church.

Pray: Dear loving God, we thank you that we are part of the church, the body of Christ. Help us to support and strengthen others in the Christian faith, especially (name specific individuals you know and care for). May the Holy Spirit give us the faith and the gifts to care for one another through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

When Jesus said he was the bread of life, he was speaking to people who knew what it was like being hungry most every day. Many people still do. Select an organization that provides food for the hungry and make a financial contribution or use your gifts of service to help at a place that provides food. Have you ever contacted your legislator or advocated for policies that care for the poor and the hungry?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Fasting is a tradition found in many religions. For Christians, one reason for fasting is to be aware of how dependent we are on food and on God to stay alive. Fasting and prayer go together. There are many ways to fast from avoiding all foods to restricting one's diet for a specific period of time. Choose a fast that works for you. When you end your fast enjoy some food while reading John 6:24-35. Reflect on the presence of your Lord Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Conclude the time by praying: **Lord Jesus, we come to you to be fed. Fill us that we may do the work of God by believing in you. Amen.**



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