

August 2, 2015  
Sermon The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost  
St Peter Lutheran Church  
Bowie, TX  
Larry Knobloch, Pastor  
John 6:22-35  
Give us this day, our daily Bread

*J.J.- Jesu Juva—Help me, Jesus*

John 6:22–35 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup> Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup> So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. <sup>25</sup> When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” <sup>26</sup> Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup> Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.” <sup>28</sup> Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” <sup>29</sup> Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” <sup>30</sup> So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? <sup>31</sup> Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” <sup>32</sup> Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” <sup>34</sup> They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” <sup>35</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

Grace, mercy and peace be to you from God our Father, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Amen.

I've always enjoyed this text. It comes right after Jesus has fed the 5,000 and He leaves them because they want to make Him a bread king, and earthly king, even though Jesus had been teaching them all day that He was the Savior of their eternal souls, not the savior of their bellies.

So, Jesus left, walked across the water and got into the boat with the disciples and went to the other side of the lake. The next morning, the people realized that Jesus was gone, and they immediately went to look for Him. When they got around the lake, they were caught, almost like children in the cookie jar, I can almost picture it. They were desperately looking for their bread king, and then all of a sudden, they saw Him and almost guiltily, stammered, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" They got busted and to cover themselves they made this lame cover of saying, "*Rabbi, when did you come here?*"

Jesus, not being fooled, answered them right away, cutting past their question saying, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill."

Well you can't argue with the Lord, when He looks into your heart and tells you what was really on your mind, ask anyone that has tried to deny His call into Church work, when Jesus cuts through the red tape of our conscience, it's time to surrender your own ideals and listen.

You see, these folks were looking to fill their physical bodies, but Jesus wanted to fill their spiritual bodies. Jesus goes on to tell them:

*“Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”*

Yes, we have physical bodies, God gave us life by our parents. A living, breathing body, but we also have a spiritual body. This spiritual life God gives us—and nourishes—in Holy Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, and His message of salvation in the Gospel. In God’s design, we are born, and then born again. In fact, without the second birth, as Jesus once told Nicodemus, we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. (Jn:3:5)

To use a bit of logic then, we are designed for two kinds of life, body and spirit, so therefore we also must need two kinds of bread, or food also. This is what Jesus is speaking of in this morning’s Text.

That is Jesus, our daily bread of life. He is the food that endures to eternal life.

We need this bread of Christ that gives eternal, spiritual life. To be sure, we need physical bread also, and God is not indifferent to that need.

This is very clear for the feeding of the 5,000 + that we read in our Gospel last week, it’s also evident in the OT lesson from today, as God provided bread every morning and meat every evening for the Israelites, and even in the fourth petition of our Lord’s prayer as we pray, *“give us this day, our daily bread”*.

But here again, Jesus reminds in His own Words as He told satan:

*“Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”* (Matt. 4:4)

Why not? Well because we have another life to sustain, our spiritual life. How many of us stuff ourselves with worldly bread...but leave our spiritual selves alone and hungry?

Each and everyone of us came into this world as a human being, sinful descendants of Adam and Eve, desperately in need of being born again. Jesus Christ came to our world as a human to give us this spiritual life once again, to bring us back to the Father. This was achieved by Jesus' suffering, His dying on the cross, and by His rising again from the grave. In this way, spiritual life through Christ is available for everyone.

Unfortunately, we are unable to get this bread on our own. Even though Jesus has made the spiritual bread available, we are still dead in our sins.

Just as a corpse cannot raise themselves and come to the table for a meal, so we are unable to raise our spiritually dead bodies and acquire the bread for spiritual life.

Yet, we yearn for it, thinking that somehow we can earn it for ourselves. Look at the question of the people in the Text as they ask: *“What must **we** do, to be doing the works of God?”*

Back in Mark, the young ruler asked Jesus: *“What must **I** do to inherit eternal life”* (MK 10:17) and even the jailor in Acts 16:30 asked Paul and Silas *“Sirs, what must **I** do to be saved”*.

The Bible answers that question as Paul tells us in Romans 3:20, saying:  
*“No one will be declared righteous in His (God’s) sight by observing the law.”*

To the crowd that morning Jesus said,  
*“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”*

It has nothing to do with us. Even in our faith, we are dependant on God.  
 1 Corinthians 12:3 tells us, *“... no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.”*

Earlier in 1 Corinthians, we are told: *“... the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14,NKJV)*

Only Jesus can provide the bread that gives us eternal life. He warns us in our Test, *“Do not work for food that perishes”*, this would be like material things, worldly possessions, but Jesus says we should work for food that endures to eternal life.

But wait, you said that we couldn’t work for our salvation...well that’s true. We let God do the work, again from our text, Jesus said, *“...my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

The Father gives you the true bread from heaven, and that bread is Jesus Christ! And whoever eats this bread from heaven receives the food that endures to eternal life and they will never go hungry!

Does that leave us totally off of the hook?  
 Meaning that we can do as we please, enjoying the world and ignoring Christ?

Well of course not. We can so clutter our lives that we refuse God's bread, preferring to eat our fill of physical bread, ignoring the spiritual hunger pangs, and just as if you ignore physical hunger long enough, it goes away, we can also ignore our spiritual hunger, ... until it becomes un—noticeable too.

We cannot be our own reason or strength come to God, but we can turn away from Him.

If you find yourselves in that situation, it's OK. God didn't give up on you. If you still are able to worry, the Holy Spirit is still active within you, you might have just ignored Him for so long, you've forgotten what His calling sounded like.

Let the Father nourish you thin morning with the Bread of Life, come forward to the Table prepared by His Son, a table prepared from the substance of His own true Body and Blood. Leave the world's bread behind and say with the men and women from our text, asking Jesus, "*Sir, give us this bread always.*" Or to quote the Lord's prayer again, "*give us this day, our daily bread*"...

Give us this day—the Bread of Life!

The peace of God, which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus!

Amen.

S.D.G.—Soli Deo Gloria

