

# THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Saturday, July 31, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING MEDLEY:

“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”

We bring the sac - ri - fice of praise — in - to the house of the  
Lord, We bring the sac - ri - fice of praise — in - to the  
house of the Lord. And we of - fer up to  
You — the sac - ri - fi - ces of thanks - giv - ing, And we  
of - fer up to You — the sac - ri - fi - ces of joy!

*(“We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise”, by Kirk Dearman, copyright 1984 John T. Benson Pub., CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

“What a Mighty God We Serve”

What a might - y God we serve, —  
What a might - y God we serve; —  
An - gels bow be - fore — Him, — Heav - en and earth a -  
dore — Him; — What a might - y God we serve. —

*(“What a Mighty God We Serve”, arr. copyright 1992 Word Music, CCLI Lic. #921494.)*

## INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life. Let's reflect on that as we are welcomed into His presence. From the days of Israel's wandering, God has provided for His people.

C: **"He spread a cloud for a covering, and fire to give light by night. They asked, and he brought quail, and gave them bread from heaven in abundance. He opened the rock, and water gushed out; it flowed through the desert like a river."**

L: God has designed creation to provide for our physical needs.

C: **"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater..."**

L: Wisdom invites us:

C: **"Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."**

L: God's people are marked by how they share what they have received.

C: **"If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink."**

L: And listen to what God says He expects of His people:

C: **"Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard."**

L: Let's confess to Jesus our need for His forgiveness.

C: **O Bread of Life Jesus, you are everything we need. Yet we have turned so many other places for fulfillment, contentment, peace and happiness. You have called us to be blessings in the lives of others and yet we have turned inward and only thought of ourselves. By our sin we have hurt you; we have hurt others; we have hurt ourselves. Just as you have always been faithful to meet our needs, we ask you to meet our needs for mercy and grace. Forgive us. Take the victory of your perfect life and innocent death and apply them to us. In your name, Jesus, Amen.**

## FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

### SONG OF PRAISE: "What Can Wash Away My Sin?"

What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

**REFRAIN: Oh! Precious is the flow That makes me white as snow;  
No other fount I know; Nothing but the blood of Jesus!**

**For my pardon, this I see, Nothing but the blood of Jesus!  
For my cleansing, this is my plea, Nothing but the blood of Jesus! REFRAIN:**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

**L:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**L:** Let us pray.

**C:** **Almighty God, we recall David saying in the psalms, “Taste and see that the LORD is good.” Give us a taste today, Lord. Give us a taste that makes us crave you more and more—a taste of your goodness, a taste of resurrection, a taste of heaven. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

**GREETING TIME**

**+ NURTURE +**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Exodus 16:2-15**

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the LORD’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.” Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” Moses also said, “You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.” Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud. The LORD said to Moses, “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.’” That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat.

**L:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**EPISTLE LESSON: Ephesians 4:1-16**

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.” (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and

craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **HOLY GOSPEL:**

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, chapter six.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord!**

L: The next day the crowd that had stayed on the opposite shore of the lake realized that only one boat had been there, and that Jesus had not entered it with his disciples, but that they had gone away alone. Then some boats from Tiberias landed near the place where the people had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. Once the crowd realized that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum in search of Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the lake, they asked him,

**C: “Rabbi, when did you get here?”**

L: Jesus answered,

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

L: Then they asked him,

**C: “What must we do to do the works God requires?”**

L: Jesus answered,

*P: “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”*

L: So they asked him,

**C: “What sign then will you give that we may see it and believe you? What will you do? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written: ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”**

L: Jesus said to them,

*P: “Very truly I tell you, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the bread that comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”*

**C: “Sir, always give us this bread.”**

L: Then Jesus declared,

*P: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

### **SONG OF THE DAY: “Blessed Jesus, Living Bread”**

**Blessed Jesus, living Bread, By your self our souls are fed:**

**Give us all the eyes to see All that you were sent to be.**

**“What is it” old Israel cried, Ate it and were satisfied.  
Now the same prolific hand Feeds them in a barren land.**

**“Who is it?” who gives himself Bread-like from a baker’s shelf?  
Never-ending food supply: Those who eat it never die.**

**We are in that crowd you fed With your blest, abundant Bread.  
Moved by every human care, Bless the Bread we eat and share.**

*(“Blessed Jesus, Living Bread,” text by Jaroslav Vajda, copyright 1990 Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)*

**MESSAGE: “Spiritual Carbs” – Pastor Bill Hugo**

**CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**+ EMPOWER +**

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:**

*(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)*

**P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:**

**C: 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 INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING “Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer” – Blue Hymnal #220  
Guide me ever, Great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but you are mighty; Hold me with your pow’ful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me now and evermore;  
Feed me now and evermore.**

**Open now the crystal fountain Where the healing waters flow;  
Let the fire and cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.  
Strong delive’rer, strong deliv’rer, Shield me with your mighty arm;  
Shield me with your mighty arm.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;  
Death of death and hell’s destruction, Land me safe on Canaan’s side.**

**Songs and praises, songs and praises I will raise forevermore;  
I will raise forevermore.**

*("Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer", tune copyright Mrs. Dilys Webb c/o Mechanical-Copyright Protection Society Limited, used with permission Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #10001418.)*

+ + +

**Lay Minister:** Larry Betzold