



“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

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
11th Sunday after Pentecost – August 4, 2024

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*GATHERING SONG *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (ELW 461)



- 1 All who hun-ger, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na is our bread.
- 2 All who hun-ger, nev-er strang-ers; seek-er, be a wel-come guest.
- 3 All who hun-ger, sing to - geth - er, Je - sus Christ is liv - ing bread.



Come from wil-der - ness and wan - d'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
Come from rest-less - ness and roam - ing. Here in joy we keep the feast.
Come from lone - li - ness and long - ing. Here in peace we have been fed.



You that yearn for days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
We that once were lost and scat-tered in com-mu-nion's love have stood.
Blest are those who from this ta - ble live their days in grat-i - tude.



Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.
Taste and see the grace e - ter - nal. Taste and see that God is good.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
The God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
Amen.

We admit our sins
Please pray with me.

Jesus, you spread out your arms to welcome the world.
And then you tell us to feed them.

But we struggle with your command.

We find the seed of doubt growing in our hearts:

What is our compassion among so much pain?

What is our small kindness in a system of injustice?

What is one act of reconciliation in a divided society?

How can so little food feed so many hungry mouths?

We have simply forgotten: when you ask us to feed the world, you always provide the bread.

Even when we have tasted the bread you multiply; even when we gather your leftovers, we still find ourselves between your wondrous power and our sinful reality.

We plead for God's forgiveness
So we ask for your forgiveness.

When you call for our faith, forgive our unbelief.

As you prepare our heavenly dwelling, forgive our earthly worries.

When you offer us armfuls of food that satisfies, forgive our appetite for unhealthy fare.

When your gospel challenges us, forgive our irritable complaints.

You are patient with us even when we prove fussy and doubtful, reluctant and argumentative.

How often do we act this way just because we are hungry?

We receive God's immediate forgiveness

People of God, Jesus knows you are hungry for forgiveness.

So Jesus has set our table with bread from heaven; and a feast to heal the soul.

You are forgiven. God leavens you with eternal goodness. Jesus gives you forgiveness enough to share. And the Holy Spirit fills your life with the flavor of transformation.

You are forgiven.

God, give us this bread always.

Canticle of Praise *This Is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo-ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic-t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Bread of Life, you have fed us before. Somehow we are still hungry. You will feed us today. Tomorrow we will hunger again. Feed us every time we hunger. Even before we know we are hungry –even before we understand what satisfies– you have set the table. Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A reading from Exodus.

² The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³ 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.”

⁴ 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.”

⁹ Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.’” ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹² “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.’”

¹³ In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 78:23-29

Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses

- ²³ So God commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven,
²⁴ **raining down manna upon them to eat
and giving them grain from heaven.**
²⁵ So mortals ate the bread of angels;
God provided for them food enough.
²⁶ **The LORD caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and powerfully led out the south wind,**
²⁷ raining down flesh upon them like dust
and flying birds like the sand of the seas,
²⁸ **letting them fall in the midst of the camp
and round about the dwellings.**
²⁹ So the people ate and were well filled,
for God gave them what they craved.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

A reading from Ephesians.

¹ I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷ But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING: John 6:24-35

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶ 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.” ²⁷ 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.” ²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” ²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” ³⁰ 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?” ³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³² 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. ³³ For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” ³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ 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, O Christ.


CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *I Am the Bread of Life* (ELW 485)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)

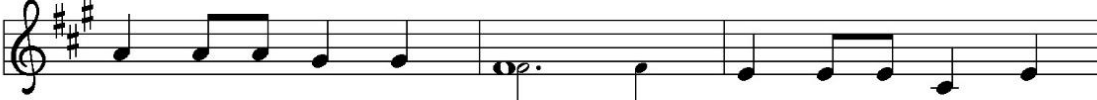
Leader or All



1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
 2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
 3 "Un - less you eat of the
 4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
 5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that . . .



come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
 flesh for the life of the world, and if you -
 flesh of the Son of Man and
 I am the life. If you be -
 you are the Christ, the




lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
 eat of this bread, and you shall . . live for -
 drink of his blood, and drink of his
 lieve in me, e - ven . . though you
 Son of God, who have




me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons."
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er."
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
 die, you shall live for - ev - er."
 come in - to the world.

Refrain
 All



"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,



and I will raise you up on the last day."

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right
hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *A brief silence.*

O Wise One, your wisdom has been present in this world since its beginning. Pour out your wisdom into the hearts of the whole church, especially the newly baptized, lay leaders, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Holy God of all creation, you are the source of all life. Where the sun blazes hard and strong, bring a gentle breeze. In the places experiencing the cold of winter, bring your warmth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Compassionate God, help government leaders of this world unite for peace and justice. Humble all who hold authority, that power is directed toward a more just society. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bread of life from heaven, you feed us. Fill all who hunger with needed nutrition and open our hearts to eliminate hunger in this world. May we see a day when all are fed. Nourish all in need of healing of mind, body, or spirit, especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, (*blue prayer cards are read*), those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O Wisdom of truth, help us to understand your will for the church. Be with congregations experiencing transition, redevelopment, and the exciting yet frightening path of newness. May your wisdom be found at every step. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Redeeming God, we give you thanks for the lives and witness of your saints now departed. Bring your beloved into eternal glory, opening wide the gates to the heavenly banquet. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God and those on the hearts and minds of this congregation this day. Receive these and the prayers for which we do not yet have words into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *What Feast of Love* (ELW 487)

Rise on 3rd verse



- 1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
- 2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
- 3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord,
through Christ our Lord;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

God of all, mighty and merciful,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We thank you and praise you
for you have satisfied the hunger of your people in every age:
from the beginning you drew up food from the earth
and humankind from the soil,
filling our nostrils full of your Breath.
You ate the fatted calf with Abraham and Sarah,
and answered their deep longing for a child;
you sustained your chosen people with manna
as you led them toward the promised land;
you sent prophets to answer the cry for bread and for justice;
and in fullness of time,
you sent your own Son, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven;

Who, in the night in which he was handed over, took bread and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
The cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory to share with us the great and promised feast.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
And stir in us a hunger for justice and thirst for compassion.
Open wide you hand and satisfy our deep desire-
feed us with the Bread that is you.
All honor and glory to you, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

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

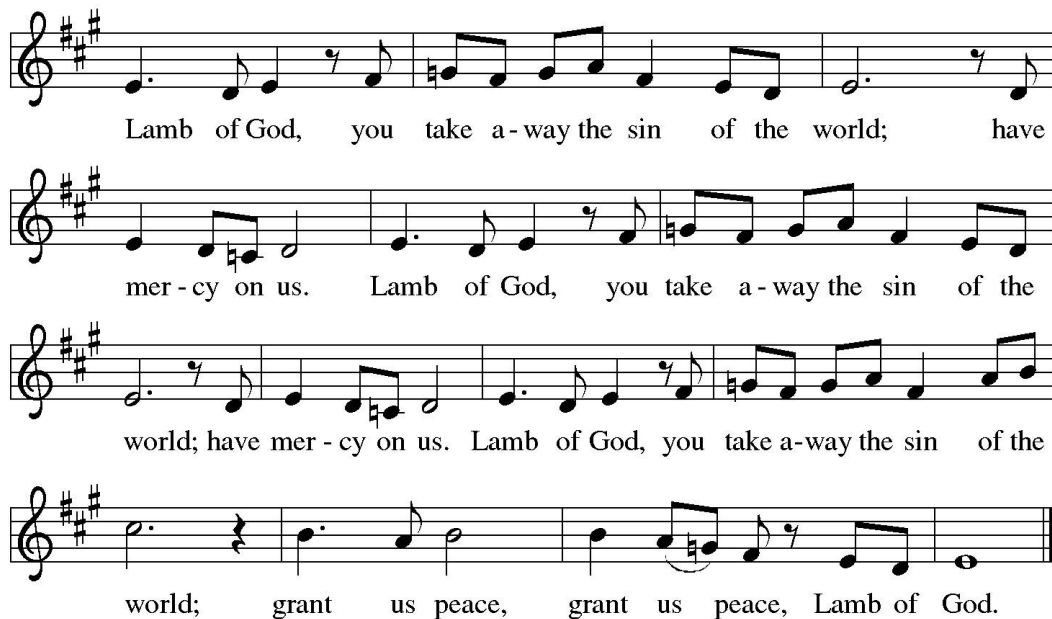
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Taste and see that the Lord is good!
Come!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Bread of Life from Heaven* (ELW 474)

Refrain



Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac -	ri -	fice;	giv -	ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass	a -	way;	set	your
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love	for	you,	gave	him -
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells	in	you;	make	your
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de -	clare	his	death;	eat	this



thanks,	hun -	gry	ones,	gath -	er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,	and	be
hearts	on	the	food	that	en -	dures.	Come,	learn	the	true	and	the
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to	the	one	who	is
home	in	the	life -	giv -	ing	Word.	Know	on -	ly	Christ,	Ho -	ly
bread	and	be -	lieve	Eas -	ter	morn;	trust	his	re -	turn	and,	with

Refrain



sat -	is -	fied;	in	Christ's	pres -	ence	the	loaves	will	a -	bound.
liv -	ing	way,	that	the	full -	ness	of	life	may	be	yours.
food	for	you,	that	your	hun -	ger	and	thirst	be	no	more.
One	of	God,	and	be -	lieve	in	the	truth	you	have	heard.
ev -	'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you	are	re -	born.

COMMUNION HYMN *As the Grains of Wheat* (ELW 465)

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you in grace. **Amen**

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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 SONG *God Be with You Till We Meet Again* (ELW 536)**



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain; by good coun-sels guide, up - hold you,
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain; ho - ly wings se - cure - ly hide you,
3 God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con-found you,



with a shep-herd's care en - fold you;
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you; God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un-fail - ing arms a - round you;

Refrain



Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Je - sus' feet;



till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet a - gain.

***DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry..."

John 6:35

Fed and nourished, go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

**The flowers on the altar today were provided by Erin and Jamie Weaver
in celebration of Denise Hager and Denis Bishop's birthday.**

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Denise H

Acolyte: Abby C

Ushers:

Greeters:

Offering: Luca K and Eva K

Notes for the day's texts:

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

Today's Music

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly. Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993, Music: W. Moore, Columbian Harmony, 1825; arr. hymnal. GIA Publications, Inc. / Augsburg Fortress.

I Am the Bread of Life. Text: Suzanne Toolan, rsm, b. 1927, based on John 6, Music: Suzanne Toolan, RSM. GIA Publications, Inc.

What Feast of Love. Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939, Music: English ballad, 16th cent. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press) / Public Domain.

Bread of Life from Heaven. Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, Music: Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950. GIA Publications, Inc.

As the Grains of Wheat. Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

God Be with You Till We meet Again. Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904, Music: William G. Tomer, 1833–1896. Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings

1 Kings 19:4-8 *Elijah given bread for his journey*

Psalms 34:1-8 *Taste and see that the Lord is good*

Ephesians 4:25—5:2 *Put away evil, live in love*

John 6:35, 41-51 *Christ, the bread of life*