

**Perley Parish**  
**Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 16**  
**August 1st**

Gathering Hymn: What Feast of Love

What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?

What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.

Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the manna given!

What light of truth is offered here, what covenant from heaven?

What hope of everlasting life, what wondrous word is given?

This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heaven.

Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is given!



Welcome and Announcements

- Fun Sunday Last week with the Old Fashioned format and celebration
- Where's Michele
- Need something reach out!
- Next Sunday 9am at Kirkebo – council following

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**Amen.**

God, our provider,

**Help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, +the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen**

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**

Psalm 78:23-29

Yet he commanded the skies above, and opened the doors of heaven; **he rained down on them manna to eat, and gave them the grain of heaven.** Mortals ate of the bread of angels; he sent them food in abundance. **He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by his power he led out the south wind;** he rained flesh upon them like dust, winged birds like the sand of the seas; **he let them fall within their camp, all around their dwellings.** And they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

## 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.

## Holy Gospel according to John 6:24-35 **Glory to you O Lord**

So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, 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<sup>[a]</sup> 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.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

## Children's Message

The Coca-Cola soft drink company has been in business for more than 100 years. Is there anyone here today who has never drunk a Coke? I doubt it. Now, there are many other soft drinks, but there is only one Coke. In fact, one of the most popular slogans ever used in Coca-Cola advertising is, "It's the Real Thing." Coke may be the "Real Thing" when it comes to soft drinks, but in today's Bible lesson, we will learn what is far more important when it comes to being the "Real Thing" in our life.

In our Bible lesson today, a crowd of people who were present when Jesus fed the 5,000 went looking for Jesus. They got into boats and went to the other side of the lake where they found Jesus. When they found him, they asked, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them, "You came looking for me, not because of the miracles I performed, but because you ate the loaves and had your fill. You should not be so concerned about things like food. You should spend your time seeking the eternal life that I can give you, for God, the Father, has given me the seal of his approval."

Now, I am not sure what Jesus meant by saying that God had given him his seal of approval, but I do remember that when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, a voice from heaven said, "This is my

Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." I also remember that when Jesus appeared on the Mount of Transfiguration with Moses and Elijah, a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!" Those two events could surely be considered God's seal of approval upon his Son.

After Jesus told the crowd that God had given him his seal of approval, they said to Jesus, "Show us a miraculous sign if you want us to believe in you. What can you do? The Scriptures say that Moses gave our ancestors bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus answered, "Moses didn't give them bread from heaven, my Father did, and now he offers you the true bread from heaven. I am the bread of life. Whoever believes in me will never be hungry again."

Some people today are looking for a sign from God to show them that Jesus is the real thing. In God's word, he has given us the only sign we need. He has given Jesus his seal of approval. He said, "This is my Son." So, there is no doubt that Jesus is the real thing!

Father, we thank you for sending your Son. We are thankful that we can know that Jesus is the real thing and there is nothing that we need other than to believe in him. In his name we pray. Amen.

#### Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

*Signs, signs everywhere there's signs....* Every time I come to this Gospel that song just runs through my head. What are some of the signs of our world today? There could be lots of them couldn't there? We see every day, stories of people plowing through immorality and destruction. Nowadays there is still daily controversy over COVID and the Delta pandemics. There are shootings going on far too many days. Politics – let's not even really dig into that or we could be here all day – bottom line whichever side or sides you are on there is scandal, scoundrels and those who twist the truth. The crazy weather – heat, drought, flooding, tsunamis, wild fires – all of it can have us questioning where our world is headed. It's hard to feel confident and excited about the future of our states, our country our world many days? Is this earth going to make it? Are WE going to make it? Is there a sign for us and if so can we even see it or understand it?

That's much like what the crowd was feeling today in the Gospel – they too were looking for a sign. Sure they had just witnessed Jesus feeding and caring for the 5,000 plus people gathered with fish and bread. He had sent the disciples away from the crowd and later (in the darkness of night) walked out onto the water to be with them. The crowd notices that Jesus isn't with them anymore and they too hop into boats and head for Jesus' home town of Capernaum. They can't let him get away and manage to re-connect with Jesus there. They do so but they also are a bit bewildered in how exactly he got there. Sure, they had seen the disciples get into the boat and sail away but they also saw that Jesus was not in the boat at the time of their departure. They ask "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Teacher, we saw you on the other side of the sea, you didn't sail away with the others and now you are here?! What's going on – How can this be??

They can't pull the sheets over Jesus' eyes, he knows why they have followed him and why they are calling him Teacher. "*You are not seeking me because you saw a sign, but because you had your fill of bread.*" They aren't coming to be taught. They are coming to be fed. "*Don't work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life.*" Jesus tells them and they respond "*what must we do to perform the works of God?*" It appears that the crowds are following along with what Jesus is trying to tell them. Don't work for things that perish when they ask him "ok, what do we need to do then to get that eternal life?" They seem to be getting it so Jesus continues "the work of God is that you believe in Him who He has sent." Ah ha – believe in who he sent – blink blink blink –

lightbulb should go off that Jesus is talking about himself. You *should* hear them exclaiming – “We BELIEVE, Lord. Yes, it is YOU who has come for us.” That’s not what happens though. They want proof – they aren’t going to believe so easily. “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?” They want a sign! Hello? Didn’t you just get your bellies filled up the day before? Didn’t you just see the lunch of a boy feed thousands and thousands? It just doesn’t register. They had seen the miracles – witnessed all that Jesus was doing – but they still didn’t see it as a sign.

They go on to question Jesus when they say “Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, “He gave them bread from heaven to eat.” The Israelites had been slaves for over 400 years. They saw their water turn to blood. They saw darkness cover the land. They saw frogs, lice, and locusts (yes, even worse than we are seeing them right now around here.) They watched as they gave and sacrificed their first born. They saw the Red Sea parted and clearly through all of that they could see the hands of God – the signs – that God had delivered them. That God was bringing them to the Promised Land – out of the wilderness. How do they respond?? They complain – why are we here? Why did you bring us HERE?? If you left us in Egypt we wouldn’t be hungry? They quickly have forgotten that they were slaves in Egypt and all that matters is that they want and need food. More and more food. And what about the signs?? Well they’ve forgotten all of them too?

So God sends them – Yes God, not Moses – sends them manna from heaven. God provided true bread of heaven. “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.” He is here – God has given us HIM. The bread of heaven.

What about you and me? We too find ourselves in wildernesses at times. We look for God when we are hungry, tired, lost and weary. We have sickness, death, struggles. We look to God at times for signs as well. God gave us the same sign as he did the crowd that day – he gave us his Son, Jesus Christ. In Him and with Him we have life indeed. The crowd in our story was surround by all they needed – Jesus – and yet they were distracted with all that was going on around them. They wanted to be fed but food – perishable food – wasn’t going to solve their problems. They would perish with that kind of nourishment.

I can’t exactly tell you why there are hard times, things that cause us pain and struggles. Why times are hard in this world all around us and why we have to suffer at times as well. We don’t know why but this we do know – that just as God brought the Israelites out of Egypt and slavery, He too brings you and me out of the bondage and darkness of sin. You and I, and all those who believe, are in His kingdom now, and he is leading us each and every day into the kingdom of eternal life with Him. We need to navigate through the wilderness and barrenness and struggles of this life’s journey on the way though. We however don’t have to do it alone. We have been promised the bread – the nourishment – the bread that will give us real life. We can’t always understand what’s going on in our lives, sometimes, in fact a lot of the times, we just have to trust and remember to look for those signs. *Signs, signs, everywhere there’s signs..* The sign of Jesus hanging on the cross at Calvary, the sign of God’s beautiful creation and the death and rebirth of all that grows in it, and the sign that we are not alone as brothers and sisters in Christ when we gather together to proclaim and rejoice in His name. Jesus came down from heaven, gave his life for the world – that’s our sign - and so we believe in the One whom he has sent. Christ died, Christ rose and he WILL come again. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: Just As I Am  
Just as I am, without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt  
Fighting and fears within without  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot  
to thee whose blood can cleanse each spot  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come

#### 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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen*

Prayers of the people: (Hear us O God, **your mercy is great**)

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

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 this land and send rain to those who need and dryness to those who are flooding. Cool temps and low winds to those who are dealing with fires and help us all to care for this amazing world you created for us. 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 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. Embrace all those who are sick, today we especially lift up Marlis and Kirk, Sonya and Roger, Terry and Jeff, Evonne and Byron, Whitney and Jaime, and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts.....Surround them with your unwavering presence. 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. Amen

#### Meal

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

**Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

*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. 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 and Offering

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

After Communion Prayer

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you 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. In the Name of the Father, and the +Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sending Song: Blest Be the Tie that Binds

Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne,  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,  
Our comforts, and our cares.

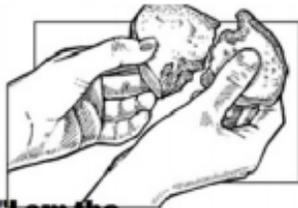
Dismissal – Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

- Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – 9am at Kirkebo with council following the service.
- Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> – Old Fashioned service w/brunch following Hayden Baptism



Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry"  
John 6:35



**"I am the  
Bread of Life."**

## Jesus, the Real Thing

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Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."  
John 6:26-27 (NLT)

X H B I Y I P Y E V S B J R E  
W E O T I T S J Z T S C T Z P  
O R P D H Y H P N K E G D A M  
R T B E A T N I T H I R S T Y  
L B M K H U N G R Y C C N Y Y  
D B E N H Z F S M S M V E A F  
I J G L I W O R L D T Q Z V L  
O I U L I V G X A H N Y B G O  
S Q L I F E V N I E Z Q E A N  
B R Q H E B V G D A B O L G C  
X R S H E A V E N V D K I K N  
Q W E I Q D R D H E L S E Y D  
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N I U S D V C V D D G H E W M  
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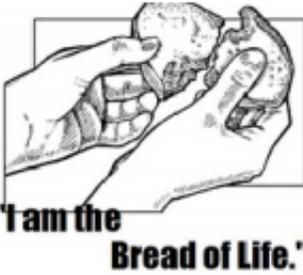
HEAVEN  
HUNGRY  
BELIEVE

EAT  
BELIEVE  
SIGN

SIGN  
WORLD  
THIRSTY

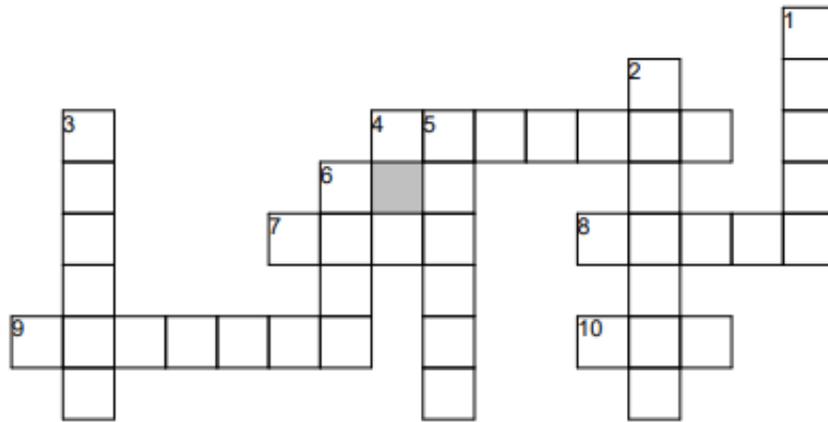
BREAD  
HEAVEN  
LIFE

THIRSTY  
ETERNAL  
WORLD



# Jesus, the Real Thing

Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, you want to be with me because I fed you, not because you understood the miraculous signs. But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval." John 6:26-27 (NLT)



### ACROSS

- 4. To have a desire for water.
- 7. A signal that something exists or might happen in the future
- 8. A food made from flour and water, mixed together and baked
- 9. To accept something as being true
- 10. To put food into your mouth, chew it, and swallow it

### DOWN

- 1. The earth with its inhabitants
- 2. To last forever; to be without end
- 3. The place where God and the angels live
- 5. To have a desire for food
- 6. The period between birth and death

HUNGRY	HEAVEN	SIGN	ETERNAL	BELIEVE
BREAD	LIFE	THIRSTY	EAT	WORLD