

Perley Parish
Time after Pentecost – Lectionary 21
August 22, 2021

Gathering Hymn: How Great Thou Art
Oh Lord, my God when I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed

Refrain:
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art. Refrain

Welcome and Announcements

- Ndrebo/Bjerke family in our thoughts after the funeral this week for Morris
- Service Weekend - No service on Sunday, Kirkebo at 9 Saturday and Nora at 9 on Sunday
- Rally Sunday is September 12th!!!!
- Rally Sunday at Nora will be Memorial for Alana with Potluck
- Letter error – please read through it and send in forms ASAP
- Where's Michele – just the drawing at 7 this week – thanks for all who watched ☺
- Need something reach out!

Confession and Forgiveness

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

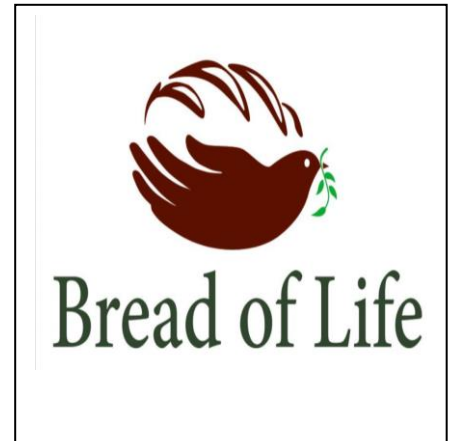
God, our provider,

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

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen



Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. **The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.** When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.** Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all. **He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.** Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. **The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.**

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Holy Gospel according to John 6:56-69 **Glory to you O Lord**

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

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

Children's Message - Books, a backpack, or other items suggesting it is time to go back to school.

It is back to school time! Does that make you happy, or are you sad? Are you excited? Nervous? Afraid? You needn't be ashamed if you are a little bit nervous or afraid. After all, you will be facing a lot of new things. You will have to make a lot of choices. What are some of the choices you will have to make when you start back to school? (Allow time for the children to answer, but if they don't respond, here are some suggestions to get them started.) Well, if your school does not require

uniforms, one of the first things you will have to choose is what you will wear the first day of school. That is pretty important, isn't it? After all, you want to look your best and make a good impression. When you get to your classroom, you will have to choose where you want to sit. Is it best to sit up front, at the back, or maybe somewhere in the middle? When it is time for lunch, you will have to choose what you want to eat in the cafeteria. Will you choose chicken nuggets or pizza?

Some choices you have to make are not very important, but others are very important. There will be rules in your classroom. You will have to choose whether or not you are going to follow the rules. That is very important! You will also be choosing who your friends will be. That is important, because if you choose the wrong kind of friends, you might find yourself in a lot of trouble. What if the teacher says something and you don't understand it? Will you pretend that you understand, or will you go to the teacher and ask for help? Those are some pretty important decisions you may be facing in the new school year.

The followers of Jesus faced some difficult decisions too. Sometimes, the teachings of Jesus were hard for them to understand. One day Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and he said to the people, "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who feeds on me will live forever." When the people heard it, they said, "This is a hard teaching. How can anyone accept it?" Some of them quit following Jesus after that day.

Jesus knew that many people were grumbling and complaining, so he turned to the twelve whom he had chosen to be his disciples and said, "You don't want to leave too, do you?"

Peter answered him. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God." The disciples had answered the call to follow Jesus. They were not about to turn back now.

You and I face the same decision those first disciples faced. Will we follow Jesus, or will we look for another to lead us? It may not always be easy to follow Jesus, but to whom can we go? Who else offers eternal life?

Father, we thank you for Jesus, the only one to whom we can go for the gift of eternal life. In his name we pray. Amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior. Amen

This past week has been busy. I spent last weekend visiting with the Ndrebo/Bjerke families as we prepared to say goodbye to Morry on Thursday. Later that afternoon I sat with a young man of 58, funny how that's a young age now that I'm in my 50's too, as we began the task of writing his obituary and preparing for his funeral knowing that it's coming soon. I also said good-bye to a dear friend at work who decided it was time to retire after so many years with the College I work at. All of these times, and the people that I was with, had us thinking and remembering the past – reminiscing about days gone by. We all like to remember happy times and those special events that went on through the years.

Memories are the glue that keep us connected to people and places and those special events. The things that have shaped us into who we are and influenced our lives. If you have ever seen my office at the College or even my home, you will find pictures, pictures and more pictures. In my office I have two big collages of my grandchildren – of course!! But I also have silly pictures of my seminary friends and hanging out together. I have pictures of current and former employees that I enjoyed spending time with at events over the years. I have drawings and pictures that some of the amazing kids here at church made me. I have lots of "stuff" – lots of memories – that I keep out in the open to remind me of special people and special times.

The 6th Chapter of John is also about memories. We've been hearing for a few weeks now that Jesus refers to himself as the Bread of Life. He wants us to remember him and all that he gave for us. And we do that each and every time we celebrate Holy Communion in that we not only experience the presence of Jesus but we remember his body and his blood that were used to purchase our forgiveness from sin.

We started this chapter of John with Jesus physically providing the bread to thousands. The crowd then followed him home and he cleared up their desire to be fed in that the bread of life wasn't about physical hunger but rather a spiritual feeding and way to life everlasting. Jesus explained to them that he was the true bread of life and that he was the only way to spiritual fulfillment – a way to seek peace with the Father.

In John, we don't get the account of Jesus providing the sacraments to the disciples on the night he was betrayed. John instead addresses the significance of the bread when he says "*Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness*" – God provided the gift of food – sustainable food - for the Israelites who traveled in the wilderness for 40 years. "*I am the living bread that has come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world.*" Jesus went on to say "*I tell you the truth unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and will raise him up at the last day.*"

At our churches you hear these words almost every week – "this is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me and this is my blood shed for you, do this in remembrance of me." Sometimes those amazing words can become too familiar – too common – that we forget just how much power they have. I speak them over the bread and wine each time we gather to celebrate the meal. John 6 speaks to Jesus being with us and for us even into the future. Jesus said "I am the living bread that has come down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread is my flesh which I will give for the life of the world."

What happens next? Our Gospel goes on to say "*He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe.*"

Let's get one thing clear – Jesus isn't speaking of his flesh literally – he's not expecting anyone to take up cannibalism but what he is trying to help those gathered that day is that his body – the body that is going to hang on the cross and the blood (which will flow be poured out) in just a short time from this gathering – will be offered for our forgiveness and all who believe will be saved. But there are the skeptics and it says that "*on hearing this many who followed Jesus said, this is a hard teaching who can accept it?*" and from this point on he began to lose discipleship and lose followers on his journey. Jesus was the sacrificial lamb – and a perfect one at that. He would not be alienated from God's mercy and love and therefore Jesus knows what his future holds and tells the disciples to "remember". Remember his sacrificed body and blood each and every time they have Holy Communion. It's his death – the giving of himself for us – that he wants them and us to remember. But that's not all that he wants us to remember.

In the first Passover in Egypt, the Israelites could not be spectators – they had to participate in the meal, the sacrificing of the lam and the placing of the blood their door frames. We too can't become spectators when the bread is broken and blessed and wine is blessed and shared. Jesus said "whoever eats my body and drinks my blood" is a full participant in his death and therefore receives the promise of forgiveness and eternal life. Martin Luther puts it this way. "Jesus is present IN, WITH, and UNDER the bread and wine." I love that description.

Think about it – after his trial before Pilate, Jesus could have denied the soldiers the job of nailing his hands and feet to a wooden beam. He could've saved himself from what was his fate but He didn't. And while dying of thirst and suffering from the suffocation that crucifixion is, he could've called out and said "I can't do this – I don't want to do this" but he didn't and why not? Because a holy

and righteous God, in the person of Jesus Christ, gave himself for us so that we no longer could be kept from his love and eternal life in heaven. We are to remember this and be active participants in his body and blood through communion. It is this security that we need as he lives in us and with us and we in Him.

When many of those gathered there heard the words of Jesus and thought them too harsh – they decided to no longer follow him. Jesus then turned to the twelve he had commissioned and asked them “what about you? Are you going to leave as well?” But Simon Peter answered “*Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*” He knew, they knew and we know that believing in the Holy One of God is the only way to life everlasting and life of love, grace and eternal mercy. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: O Jesus, I Have Promised
O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end;
Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my Guide.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee
That where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end—
Oh, give me grace to follow, my Master and my Friend.

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: (Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world and all in need.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of creation, bless fields and orchards, gardens and river beds. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth – more of the heavenly rains we saw this week are needed Lord. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. We especially lift up the country of Afghanistan and all those in danger. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of change, bless our transitions, Lord. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life usuch as a new school year or grade, a new job or new community. Sustain enduring relationships and community and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented with mental illness and addiction. Come quickly to help all those who are grieving and suffering from illness. We especially lift up today Jeff and Terry, Sonya and Roger, Marlis and Kirk, Evonne and Byron, Whitney and Jaime, Anne and

Brent, and all those we name silently now in our own hearts..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

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: Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Savior all the day long;

This is my story, this is my song,

Praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,

I in my Savior am happy and blest,

Watching and waiting, looking above,

Filled with His goodness, lost in His love. Refrain

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Next Weekend: No Worship. Service projects - Kirkebo – meet at 9 am Saturday and Nora – meet at 9 am Sunday

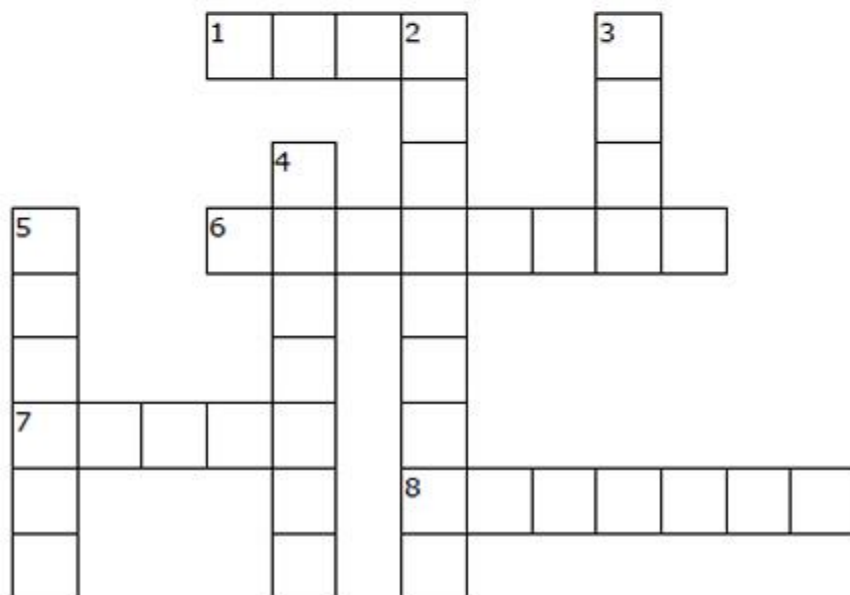


I will follow Jesus, our leader.

To Whom Shall We Go?

“You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve. Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:67-68 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on John 6:60-69



ACROSS

1. Difficult to understand, accomplish, or finish
6. Sharing knowledge with others
7. To go away from; depart; abandon or forsake
8. Continuing forever

DOWN

2. The original followers of Jesus
3. To reverse directions
4. To accept as true or real
5. To come after; to go behind someone

BELIEVE
ETERNAL

HARD
TURN

DISCIPLES
LEAVE

TEACHING
FOLLOW

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Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



L	G	S	P	J	W	R	X	E	M	H	Z	T	O	B	V	D	Y	K	I	N	A	F	C	U	Q
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 13-9-22-24-11-20-21-2 _____

2. 1-20-23-9 _____

3. 23-14-1-1-14-6 _____

4. 13-25-7-21 _____

5. 15-22-24-19 _____

6. 1-9-22-16-9 _____

7. 9-13-9-7-21-22-1 _____

8. 15-9-1-20-9-16-9 _____

TEACHING	LIFE	BACK	BELIEVE
LEAVE	TURN	FOLLOW	ETERNAL

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

GIVES	GRUMBLING	BETRAY	LIFE	WORDS
ETERNAL	TURN	BACK	BELIEVE	JESUS
LEAVE	KNOW	TEACHING	FOLLOW	HARD