

GOSPEL LESSON—John 6:22-35

Three words are emphasized in this lesson; "bread, work and life." These three words are keys to the text. The crowds who found Jesus at Capernaum inquired about His arrival. Jesus came right to the point. They had not come to observe signs, they had not come to worship Him as God, they had come because of bread, they were fed and happy. Jesus told them not to work so hard for food that rots. Work hard for food that endures to eternal life, and eternal life is only to be found through faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He is the bread from Heaven. He is the meal of the covenant. He is the assurance of eternal life.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© O God, our God, by Whose Spirit all things are ordered in Your kingdom, so that if it should be done, it is done, mercifully hear our prayer. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us, that we may receive power from Him to speak the words that need to be spoken. In His authority, we call on You for those in need and in His dominion we are assured that our words of praise will be worthy of Your hearing.

Empower Your church as the Holy Spirit works in us through Your Word. Let us hear Your Word from Christ-like teachers through the ears of faith. Help us turn to You in the fullness of love and trust. In the knowledge of Your will, help us repent of our transgressions and iniquities and amend our ways.

By Your Holy Spirit, give all such spiritual gifts as are necessary to the witness and work of the ministry of Your church, so that there may always be abundant wisdom and knowledge, faith and health, prophecy and miracles, judgment and light. Send the knowledge of You to people of every nation, kindred, tribe, and realm.

Grant by the same Spirit that Your house will always be a house of prayer for all people. Cleanse it of all unrighteousness, that it will be a place where Your honor dwells. Cause the Words of our Lord Jesus to be taught daily in all homes, that both parents and children may grow in grace through the knowledge of He who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Give Your blessing to all useful labor in industry and agriculture, education and science, the professions and the arts, that in their advancement Your people may prosper.

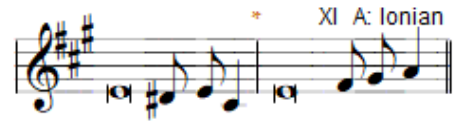
Look in mercy on the sick and the hurt, those who sorrow or mourn, the handicapped and the infirm, and hear their cry.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
We ask You to hear these and all our other petitions, in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

© **Amen.**

PROPER THIRTEEN

Chant Tone



Introit With upright heart He shep herded them* and guided them with His skillful hand. He commanded the skies above* and opened the doors of — Heaven, and He rained down on them man na to eat* and gave them the grain of — Heaven.	Man ate of the bread of the — angels;* He sent them food in a — bundance. Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy — Spirit; as it was in the be — ginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen. With upright heart He shep herded them* and guided them with His skillful hand. <i>(Antiphon, Psalm 78:72; Psalm 78:23-25)</i>
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Collect of the Day

Merciful Father, You gave Your Son Jesus as the heavenly bread of life. Grant us faith to feast on Him in Your Word and Sacraments that we may be nourished unto life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and know | ledge of God!*
How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscruta | ble His ways!
For from Him and through Him and to Him | are all things.*
To Him be glory forever. — Amen.

(Romans 11:33, 36)

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ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, source of all our supply, Creator and Sustainer of our life, accept the praise of our lips and the gratitude of our hearts. Your mercies are new every morning, and Your kindness watches over us every night. You send us our daily bread and give us the Bread of life in Your Son Jesus Christ. For these constant evidences of Your Love we praise Your most Holy name. Strengthen our faith in Jesus, heal the sick, grant assurance to the hopeless, be the companion of the lonely and hear our prayer. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

THE CROWDS CONTINUED TO LOOK FOR JESUS BECAUSE HE PROVIDED FOR THEM. We have been called out of this world into the kingdom of God. Jesus has provided everything we need to live in the Eternal kingdom of God. We continue to follow Him to receive the Word of Life. A big thank you to all who have come to worship with us today. There is something awesome in the blending of our hearts, minds and voices in praise of Jesus our Savior. It is especially awesome that even though the crowds kept coming at inconvenient times Jesus continued to receive them.

THEME OF THE DAY:
Food Of Eternal Life

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 78:72;) Psalm 78:23-25

There is nothing historic about our lessons today. The Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons were added to our lectionary in the first revision to a three year cycle in about 1969. Today, we, in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, are using the alternative Introit which was introduced in the revision to the revised lectionary in 1992, but which we didn't start using until 2006. We are using the alternate because it accords with the Old Testament and Gospel Lessons. The title of Psalm 78 tells us that it is a work of Asaph. In the book of First Chronicles (25:1-2) the sons of Asaph were assigned by David to prophesy, "with lyres, with harps, and with cymbals." (The Psalms were set to music, but we don't know the sound.) Jesus is our Shepherd, Jesus is our Bread of Life.

COLLECT

Jesus wasn't referring to the sacrament when He called himself the "Bread of Life." In this prayer we ask to be nourished in the fact that He is "the Word" and we are fed in Him to Eternal Life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Exodus 16:2-15

God provided the Israelites with all that they needed to support their bodies and lives. The manna and quail are bread from Heaven. They were to collect the manna and quail daily. Day-to-day they were to live from the hand of God. God led the Israelites to depend on His provision. The Exodus was not a one time event. The people needed to learn to lean on God for all of their days, just as we need to lean on God for our daily life. We pray "give us this day our daily bread," in the same way the Israelites daily gathered the manna and quail.

GRADUAL—Romans 11:33, 36

This is our last Sunday with this Gradual. The connection to our theme for today is wisdom and knowledge. There is treasure in the life knowledge of God, the knowledge of God comes only through the work of Jesus who brought us out of war into the the peace and plenty of life in God.

EPISTLE LESSON—Ephesians 4:1-16

Chapter 4 begins the second part of Ephesians with the theme that we should be worthy of God's call to salvation. Paul was actually in prison and he referred to himself as, "prisoner for the Lord." Essentially Paul is telling us to find where we are in life and figure out a way to honor God in that situation. In Paul's case this meant that he wrote letters that have become seminal treatise for comprehending subjective and objective justification. Stop being children. Present yourself as a grown up Christian equipped to build up the body of Christ in love.