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Worship
Time After Pentecost
August 4th, 2024

THE GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements
Preparation for Worship

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of Healing and Transformation,
we hunger and thirst for your abundant life.

We bring you our sorrow
and ask for the bread of joy;

we bring you our despair
and ask for the bread of hope;

we bring you our weariness
and ask for the bread of inspiration.

Meet us here.

**We need the bread of heaven to sustain us as we journey to find our way, that we may
we be one with you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

GATHERING HYMN – *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* ELW #618

1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty;
hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.

- 2 Open now the crystal fountain
where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.
- 3 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.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend, gracious Lord.

Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE – *Gloria - Heritage Mass*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you we adore you, we glorify you,

We give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heav'nly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

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

THE WORD

First Reading - Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God's saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

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.

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.*

Second Reading – Ephesians 4:1-16

Christians share fundamental unity and diversity. Our unity consists in the one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God. Our diversity is expressed in various forms of ministry whose goal is equipping the saints and building up Christ's one body.

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore, it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." (When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 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. 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. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 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.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia

The holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading – John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

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 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.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

HYMN OF THE DAY – I am the Bread of Life ELW #485 vs. 1,2, & 4

1. I am the bread of life.
You who come to me shall not hunger,
And who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me
Unless the Father beckons.

Refrain

And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up.
And I will raise you up on the last day.

2. The bread that I will give
Is my flesh for the life of the world.
And if you eat of this bread,
You shall live forever,
You shall live forever. *Refrain*

- 4 I am the resurrection,
I am the life.
If you believe in me,
Even though you die
You shall live forever. *Refrain*

Text:Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on Hohn^ Music:Suzanne Toolan, RSM Text and music 1966,1986,1993 GIA Publications, Inc.

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

We affirm our faith with 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.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 readers, 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 that we are all fed.

We want to pray especially for our loved ones in need of care, Martha, Brian, Jerry, Julie, David, James, Don, Guy, Barbara, and Diane.

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 our wisdom be found at every step.

Merciful God,
Receive our Prayer

What else do the people of God want to lift up to God today?

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. Receive them into your holy keeping.
Amen

The peace of the Lord be with you all.
And also with you.
Let's share God's peace with one another.

THE MEAL

OFFERING HYMN – *Eat this Bread ELW #472*

*"Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst."*

Text: Taizé Community

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OFFERTORY – “*Make Me a Servant*”

**Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

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 up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” – Heritage Mass

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your Word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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 for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This 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 birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him, all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

COMMUNION INVITATION

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

You may be seated

COMMUNION HYMN / KRISTAN YOUN

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.**

THE SENDING

BENEDICTION

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – *I Know That My Redeemer Lives* ELW #619 vs. 1,6, & 8

1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

6 He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
he lives and loves me to the end;
he lives, and while he lives, I'll sing;
he lives, my prophet, priest, and king!

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Savior, still the same;
what joy this blest assurance gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember always - You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

**Bethany's Mission Statement –
Accepting
Serving
Loving . . .
We Share God's Embrace**

Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Jones
Accompanist:	Kristan Youn
Lector	Tom Aaby
Communion	Yvonne & Bud Morrison
Ushers	Cheryl Krummel & Maggie Beard
Fellowship:	Mary Anne Clark
Production	Carla Roberts