

10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Mount Calvary, West View 08/05/18

EXODUS 16: 2-15, EPHESIANS 4: 1-16, JOHN 6: 22-35

HYMNS: O GOD MY FAITHFUL GOD LSB #696,

I HEARD THE VOICE OF JESUS SAY LSB #699,

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR, KING OF CREATION LSB #537,

GUIDE ME O THOU GREAT REDEEMER LSB #918

Theme: Bread of Life

+ Grace be to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN +

Our Text is from the Gospel of St. John, the 6th Chapter:

Then they said to Him, "What must we do, to be doing 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, "Then what sign do You do, that we may see and believe You? What work do You perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus then said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven; but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He Who 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; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."

You may have noticed, as Secretary Madeleine did, that we have left the Gospel of Mark, and entered the Gospel of John. Indeed, we have jumped Gospels but have continued in the readings. For you may recall that last Sunday was the text after the feeding of the more than 5,000, and that Jesus had dismissed the disciples so that they would not be influenced by the people wanting Jesus to be ökingö. Then there was the boat and Jesus walking on the water problem, then Jesus being recognized by the people were given the opportunity to bring the sick and be instructed as well. Here is the instruction that was not in detail with last Sunday's text.

The first thing that Jesus must inform them is that they are looking for the wrong thing. öTruly,

*truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the Food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal.*ö They have yet to hear and to understand that Jesus' Kingdom is not of this earth, but is a heavenly Kingdom that has no end, and can never be overcome. The Messiah did not come to set up and perpetuate an earthly kingdom, with all the unbelievers as subjects under His feet, even though many have waited for such. They needed to understand that Jesus came to die at the hands of His creation in order that they may live with Him in Paradise ô in the heavenly realms. His Flesh, for eternal life.

But is it really their fault? It is most certainly true that this is a group of people that just were not looking beyond their own earthly setting, (Recall the words of Jesus, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be, also.") but recall also that these poor people are like sheep without a Shepherd and have not been taught to refrain from placing their treasure in the earthly things of bread and fish and focus on the heavenly things of God and His Son. Having seen Jesus feed the more-than five thousand; they wanted to make Him their King, for they see that He is all-powerful, and can take care of their earthly needs, but this reduces Jesus to only a bread king, a king only capable of bearing earthly power. This is not what He came for.

Amazing, is it not? These very same people that were running on foot to get ahead of Jesus and His disciples to hear His Words and learn at His feet, who without asking received bread and nourishment for their souls, are now clamoring around for Jesus, simply because of their own sinful interests. They are not glad when they finally find Jesus; notice that? No "Hi!", no "Hello!" no "Boy are we glad to have found you!" Instead they just want to know how in the world He got there so fast! öIs there a trick that we can learn, so we can be just as quick as You?ö they may as well ask! All they wanted to know was, "When did you get here?" They were still, as yet, unbelievers in the knowledge that Jesus was God in the flesh, able to do miraculous signs and wonders. They knew that the Messiah that is to come would perform

miraculous signs and wonders, but they were unclear as to which Kingdom Jesus would set up His throne. They wanted an earthly king, not a Spiritual King in Jesus. They did not want Jesus to be the Savior of the world, but a savior of Israel, from the oppression of the Roman rule, and from famine ô A belly King as Luther once said about these and similar people looking for God to be the earthly supplier alone. As for the spirituality from the Holy Ghost? Forget it.

Consider also this: they wanted a God they could control! Look again at their question to Jesus, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Implying, "How did you get here so fast?" Perhaps even, "Why did you not tell us that you have left?" Sounds like Mary and Joseph, when they scolded Jesus for not being in the caravan going home that one Passover weekend. They are like parents scolding their child. These people act as if they are the ones in control, or at least, want to be. The sad thing is that there is no longer a desire to be with Jesus, as much as there is a desire to control Him. Seeing right through such nonsense, such heresy, Jesus reprimands them, saying, "*Amen, Amen,*" that is, "*In very much truth I say to you, you look for Me not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.*" You look not for the Spiritual but for the physical. There is a deeper message here, a pleading on God's part that the people understand that their desires are not overlooked by Him, but that they need something more than just bread for the belly, they need something more than comfort in this life, they need more than to satisfy the flesh ô they need a Savior, One Who proves Himself to be the Immanuel by the things that He does.

As much as I would love to press the screws to these biblical Jews for trying to control God, Today is no different. We always talk about the 'ungodly' and the 'unchurched' needing Jesus and our ministry, and it is meet and right so to do, but there is another group that needs to be addressed, and they are the ones thinking they are already "Godly" and "Enlightened" about God. The very truth is that they are far from Him because they heed not His Words but their own belly. How many times have we come before God's throne with the intent of telling Him what we want, or complaining because things did not go our way? We complain that God has not blessed us as much as another, or even the heathen. We blame Him

because He has not blessed us with great income and therefore must work on Sundays. We complain that we have no time for ourselves and so we spend Sundays with family and friends and tell God that this is what we are to do because we have no time for Church or the ministry. We are so good at blaming God and setting Him up as a God of "things" that we make light of His forgiveness from the Word Sacraments and declare, nay demand that God forgive us of our sins because it is His fault that we cannot come to church or receive the Sacrament.

With these and many other sins, we in effect tell God that if He would just give us more time/money/fun/power/ whatever it is that we think we need, then we would have the ability to come to the gathering of the faithful, offer up proper thanks and praise to His holy Name. Indeed, we are no different than Adam blaming God saying, "The Woman YOU gave me made me do it." We say through our sin, "The World and condition you gave me made me do it." However, Jesus has an answer for such blaming, "Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the Food that endures to eternal life." That is easy for Him to say. He has a plethora of angels to help and minister to Him as they did after the temptations in the wilderness. But what you may not have realized is that YOU, now, have even more than Jesus had on this earth, because He says, that in all things, even eternal life, "***The Son of Man will give to you.***" Why? Because we finally will get our act together and stop whining to God about our problems, or because we have done something to be found worthy to receive this eternal bread? Jesus says the ONLY reason we get all these things is because "***on Him God the Father has set His Seal!***"

There is the key to everything! No matter how you have complained, or how often, no matter how you have demanded of God to do what you will of Him, no matter how the sinful flesh desired to control God by twisting the Words and such making you believe things that are more selfish than true, He gives to you and all people His approval that rests on His Son, the Sinless One. Because Christ has fulfilled all righteousness, the wrath of the Heavenly Father is diverted from you to Him, Christ, the Second Person of the Trinity. Since the Son was totally obedient, your disobedience is removed by faith in Christ's death

on the cross. Because Jesus humiliated Himself (all without complaining) He can understand your sufferings and is able to comfort you more than any person or support group can.

Yes, the fathers ate manna in the wilderness, but that was simply by the Grace of God. Certainly not because they grumbled and complained. Today you receive Grace from the Word and Sacrament ministry and the bread from heaven still comes down this day, and gives life to the world, and better yet, to YOU. You receive the forgiveness offered from the cross of Calvary this day, to take away your sins and make you never hunger or thirst for righteousness again. For it is all by faith. It is God Who reminds us that it is "God's Work that you believe in Him Whom He has sent." Faith that is received by the Waters of Holy Baptism; Faith that is sustained by the work of Christ in with and under the Bread and Wine of His Sacrament! It is Faith found in the Word of God alone that reminds us of our Salvation through Jesus Christ and causes us to be content with what we have. It is faith that allows us to come to Christ and ask for forgiveness, and upon receiving it, joyfully do the work with the calling we have.

God has provided for you even today. He has sent His Son to you and for you. Christ is the Bread from Heaven and is still giving Himself as the bread of Life, sustaining the faithful in their callings, and keeping them in the light of truth, and that with His Word, you will never hunger nor thirst for God's presence or acceptance again. Believing in the Sacraments that they do give the very forgiveness of Sins from the Triune God Himself, you rest in the comfort of knowing that you are content with what you have been given and seek not to change what God has given. Content that your work is not in vain things such as making a name for yourselves, or in the hopes that many will like you, but in the Truth that God's Kingdom is furthered by the faith we act in our lives, and letting others see the signs and wonders that Christ works through us as we forgive one another, what Saint Paul calls the equipment, that the Saints have, *for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.* May we all be blessed to give to everyone, whether they ask or not, the Christ Who makes us to never hunger nor thirst for salvation; In our Triune God's Name

we pray. AMEN.

+ AND NOW MAY THE PEACE OF GOD WHICH SURPASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING
KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS IN UNION WITH CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD.
AMEN+

There are only two days on my calendar...today and the day of judgment