

Bread of Life John 6:22-35 11th Sunday after Pentecost Aug 5, 2018

I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. John 6:35

Dear friends in Christ, Today we look at Jesus, the bread of life.

Now the people weren't looking for the bread of life. They had eaten the bread when Jesus fed the 5000, and they were looking for bread, but not the bread of life. They were looking for a way to make their lives easier. They were looking for what they could trade, what could they do, to earn their bread. What works must we do, to be doing the works of God?

How often we look for what we can do to be doing the works of God? Be a better husband or wife? Raise the kids to know God? How much we think that our lives will be better if we just went to church a little more or worked a little harder. How often we turn the house of God into a marketplace where we give our devotion and time or energy and God gives us a better life. WE are more comfortable with the marketplace. It's like when you get invited to dinner, and you always ask what can you bring, because we like barter better than gifts. We like to feel like we are in control.

Yet Jesus has none of that. The bread of life come from heaven is a gift of God, not what we earn. This is the work of God, that you believe in the one that he sent. The gift must be trusted and accepted, not worked for. And it is the gift of God, a gift he works to give. God does his part and we trust that he did his part. WE come to the supper with nothing in our hands and let him feed us. And we do that because he gives us his word, not because of our strength of will. As we confess in the third article, I believe I cannot of my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my lord or come to him. But the holy spirit has called by the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. That is the work of God.

Baptism yesterday. Baptism now saves you. Baptism saves not in a magical way but in that in it God gives a promise, he gives his word, that we are joined to him and his sons life is not our life. We are the children of God. HE gives a promise to be believed.

Again says, I am the bread of life. Now bread is common. We all eat it. How many have bread today? Yesterday? Christ fed the people barley loaves in the wilderness. It is what they ate to live, not as a special occasion, not as a special treat like ice cream, but what they lived on. Christ tells us we live on him. That our sustenance our food is him, our drink is him. He's not for special occasions, not even just for Sundays, but for daily use. He isn't the dishes kept in the china cabinet that we never use, but the one that we use each day. And he is God, so he holds up to daily use.

Christ is not what we get once in a while, but daily. In the old testament, he told the people to write his law on their doorposts and tassels, to speak of it in the rising and laying down in their going out and their coming in. How much more the word of God come from heaven, our Lord Jesus. How much he fills our mouth in our eating and drinking, and even more in our conversation. How much we speak of the word and the works he does in our life. How much we see him in our lives and praise him.

How much he wants us to remember and be saved. He gives his word and he gives his meal, that we may believe and be saved.

Today, eat what the Lord gives you. The bread of life has come to you, that you may live with him. He is at the meal and in the meal. Come and eat. Amen.