

### **Introduction to the day**

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **FIRST READING: 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33**

A reading from 2 Samuel.

*This reading describes some of the troubles in King David's family. His son Absalom has amassed an army and seized David's throne. Those loyal to David fight Absalom's forces and defeat them. David himself is chiefly concerned about the well-being of his son, even though that son has betrayed him.*

### **PSALM: Psalm 130**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. (Ps. 130:1)

### **SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25—5:2**

A reading from Ephesians.

*Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.*

### **GOSPEL: John 6:35, 41-51**

The holy gospel according to John.

*After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.*

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

#### **Jesus, Living Bread**

What is meant by "living bread"?

When the Israelites were wandering in the desert, God gave them manna from heaven to sustain them on their way. They had to collect this manna every day and could not harvest more than one day's portion, except to prepare for the sabbath, because if they did, the manna would go bad. That is the fate of everything that is not living: cars rust, food molds, even still water stagnates. But to be living is to find renewal over and over and over again. One of the defining characteristics of life is the ability to be renewed.

By proclaiming "I am the living bread," Jesus reminds us this week that he is the embodiment of God's sustaining presence. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection we are brought into a covenantal relationship with God that has been established for all time. In the sacrament of communion we are brought to Christ's table to be renewed again and again and again.

God's renewal also comes to us throughout our daily lives. God's redeeming love for us is often most present at the edge of our sin and brokenness, where we are most in need of healing and redemption. God's redeeming love is present every time we find reconciliation with a loved one or forgive one another. Anywhere we experience healing and wholeness in our daily lives, God's renewal is present, and we are reminded of the renewal we receive through the sacrament of the altar. Thanks be to God for providing us with the living bread that is Jesus, through whom we find renewal and peace.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.

Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries, *especially the Eganville Food Bank*. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill *especially* Sandra Gagnon, Karen Weigold, Keith Weckwerth, Shirley Glickman, Marilyn Schneider, Denita Wolfgram, Stephanie Yourth, Christopher Yourth, Linda Boland, Glenda Panke, Debbie Thom, Donna L Hoffman, Walter Hobden, Harold Yourth, Doug Sell, Danny Schultz, Bill Lorbetskie and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts those who need your healing touch. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.  
**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.  
**Amen**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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