Pentecost 10

August 1, 2021



Grace Lutheran Church

Worship at 8:00 am (Spoken) & 10:15 am (Liturgical)

Shore Road @ Dawes & Meyran Aves.

11 East Dawes Ave., Somers Point, New Jersey 08244

Phone: 609-927-3082—Fax: 609-927-6672—Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Email: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

Pastor: Rev. Althea Albright Music Director: Mr. Scott J. Breiner Church Secretary: Diana McArdle

Sexton: Andrew McCarrick

Welcome

Welcome to Grace Lutheran Church! We are glad you are here whether you are here to worship with us as a first time visitor, friend, neighbor, or lifelong member. If you have any questions, concerns, or need pastoral care, Pastor Althea would love to talk with you. Feel free to speak with her after worship or contact her by email at: pastoralthea3@gmail.com or by phone 484-345-0399.

Mission Statement

Through God's Word and Holy Spirit, Grace Lutheran Church will be...

- Inviting all people to belong to the church of Jesus Christ,
- Equipping those who believe as faithful disciples of Jesus, and
- Sending members to *become* caring servants of God in the world.

Serving in Worship Today—Worship Assistant: Shirley Blankenship

Altar Guild: Brenda Traa—Fellowship—Self Serve

Sound Technicians: Jim Foreman, Michael Piskun, Shawn Welfield

In Our Hearts and Prayers

Greetings members, friends, and family of Grace! We are trying a new way of listing our prayer concerns in the coming weeks. If you notice someone who is missing or if anyone has someone new to add, please don't hesitate to contact Pastor Althea via phone, Facebook, or email or contact our secretary in the office to add people who are on our hearts each week and include our ongoing concerns.

Members of Grace: Jim C., Cheryl R., Betty N., John N., John S.

Family and friends: Family and friends of Doris Pugliese (sister of Rene Pugliese)

Elliott and Rodriguez Family (friend of Pastor Althea). Jody (niece of Grings), Maria, Cecilia, and Richard (friends of Wellfields), Dr. Frank, (friend of Diana McArdle), Jim, Vicki, Don, and Barbara (friends of Meg LaSpina), Payton (friend of Joyce Bianco), Annmarie (friends of Marlene D.), Tami (friend of Brenda T.)

Family of Ambrose O'Donnell, 3rd (Friend of Claire Brick)

Those Serving Our Country: Matt Bilello, ANG; Daniel Casner 3rd, USN; Sgt. Joshua McArdle, USM; Cainan Johnson, USAF

<u>At Home</u> - Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Dot Reichelt, Lois Rahme, Lois Reardon, & Skip Uhrmann

Shores@Wesley Manor: Dot Crawshaw, Eleanor Guire, Eileen Rumble

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

WITH ONE VOICE

BREAD OF LIFE

Congregation responses in bold print.

GATHERING

WELCOME Rev. Althea Albright

PRELUDE I Am the Bread setting by Ron Schmoltze

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Gracious God, we open our hearts to you. You know each of us inside and out.

We cannot hide anything from you. Create in us hearts of love and humble us to serve you by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Renew our relationship with you and restore our joy as we worship you and magnify your holy name. **Amen**

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

God of Grace, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We humbly repent and we want to be close to you again. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Restore our relationship with you. Uphold us and strengthen us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may live and serve you once again through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved through faith. In the name of \pm Jesus Christ, all of your sins are forgiven. May God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that you may know Jesus' great mercy and love for you. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

What a Feast of Love

ELW # 487



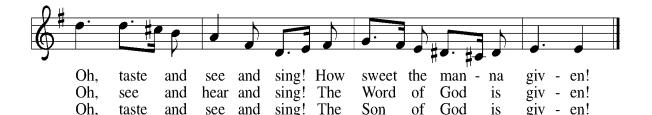
- What feast of love is of fered here, what ban-quet come from heav en?
- 2 What light of truth is of fered here, what cov e nant from heav en?
- 3 What wine of love is of fered here, what crim-son drink from heav en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en? What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en? What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this bread come down from is Christ the king, the heav - en. This, this Christ the king. sun come down from is the heav - en. Christ the king, This, this is the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

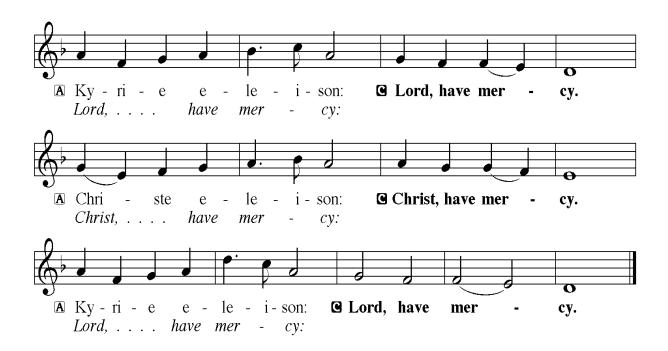
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE







PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together....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.

Please be seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a 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.

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The 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."

⁴Then 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."

9Then Moses said to Aaron, "Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, 'Draw near to the LORD, for he has heard your complaining.'" ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹The LORD spoke to Moses and said, ¹²"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.'" ¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When 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."

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 78:23-29

- ²³So God commanded the | clouds above / and opened the | doors of heaven,
- ²⁴raining down manna upon | them to eat and giving them | grain from heaven.
- ²⁵So mortals ate the | bread of angels; / God provided for them | food enough.
- ²⁶The LORD caused the east wind to blow | in the heavens and powerfully led out | the south wind,
- ²⁷raining down flesh upon | them like dust / and flying birds like the sand | of the seas,
- ²⁸letting them fall in the midst | of the camp and round a- | bout the dwellings.
- ²⁹So the people ate and | were well filled, / for God 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.

¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

"When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive;

he gave gifts to his people."

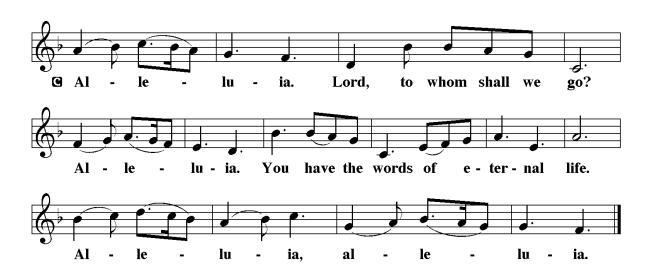
⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers,

¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until 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. ¹⁴We 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. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from 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.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING: John 6:24-35

The holy gospel according to St. John. Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus 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. ²⁷Do 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." ²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So 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? ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then 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. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

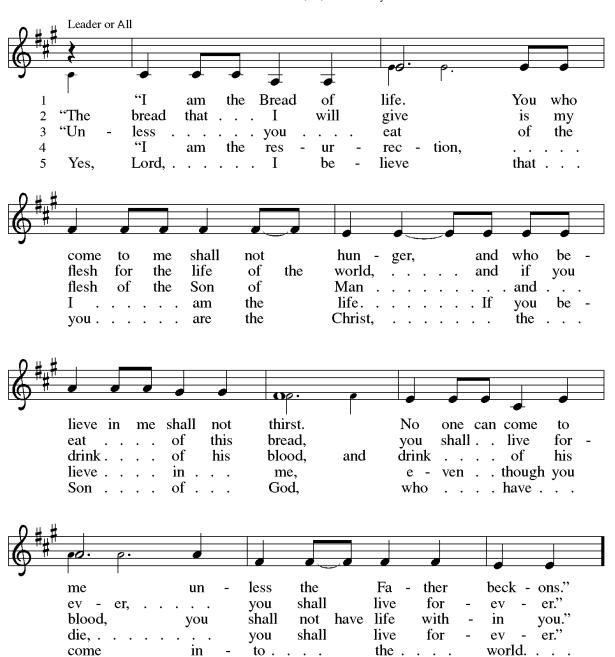
³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

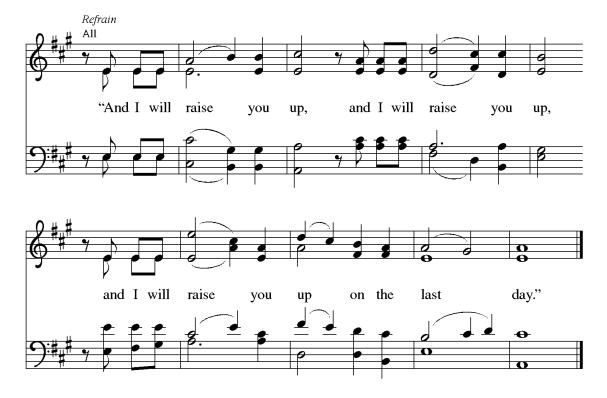
SERMON Rev. Althea Albright

Bread of Life

John 6:35



in



Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

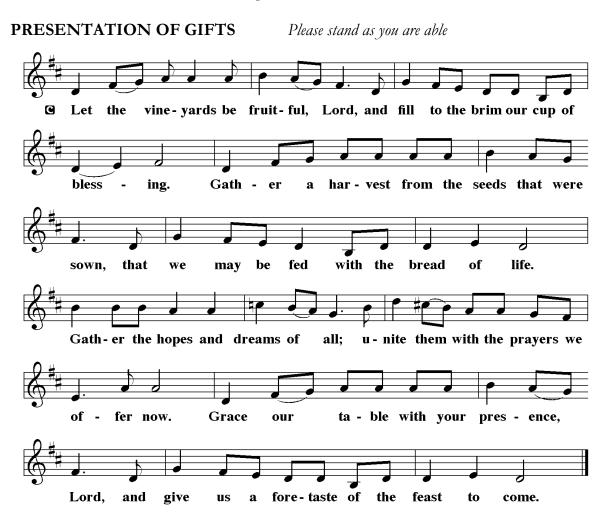
Amen

WEEKLY OFFERING

We are thankful for however you are able to continue supporting our ministry at Grace. Offering may be received through the mail, church office, or Simply Giving online. Please call the church office if you need assistance with Simply Giving, or have any questions or concerns.

OFFERTORY

Bread of Heaven, On Thee We Feed From the Fauré "Requiem," arr. By Mark Schweizer Soprano: Ruth Bowden



OFFERING PRAYER

We pray together for however we have made offerings to God in our lives.

Let us pray. We praise you, God, Creator of the universe. We thank you for all of the blessings in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Take these gifts and use them for your holy work. Grant us opportunities to serve those in need. Send your Spirit to watch over us and guide us in all that we do through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Pastor: Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

Leader: We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing (especially). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Leader: We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Pastor: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

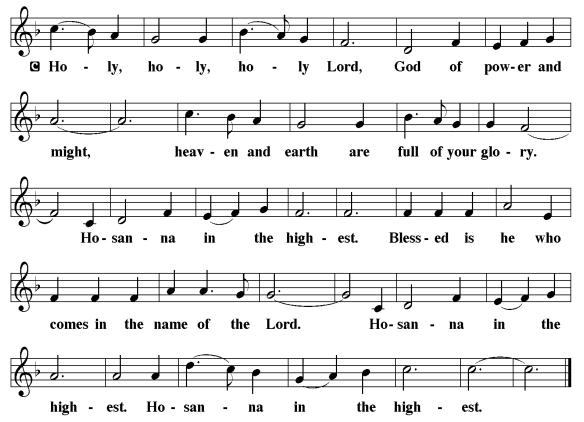
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you have taken us by the hand, and offered yourself to us in a sacred sacrament. You are the creator of all things; you knew the earth and its inhabitants before their birth. You know our inner most being and offered us love and forgiveness in the new covenant embodied in your Son, Jesus, who died for all the world. Now, with the whole church, the angels, and all of heaven we praise you and sing:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Almighty God, at this, your holy table, we come to you to be fed by your presence. We give you thanks for Jesus' coming into the world to fulfill your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

On 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.

Together we celebrate this holy meal. May all praise and thanks be to you, Holy God, through Christ Jesus, and by your Life-giving Spirit. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by Christ, let us pray.

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

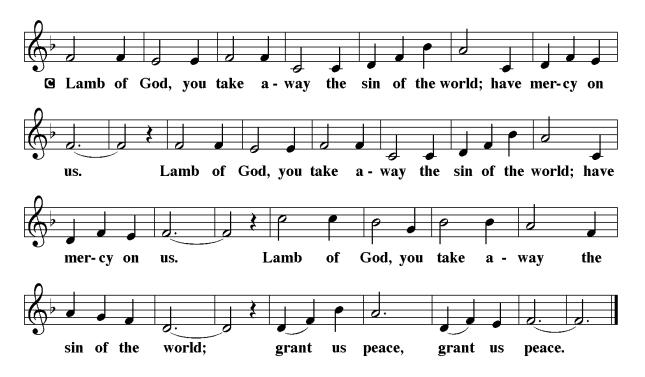
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet for Christ is our host. Amen.

Communion will be offered in two ways, continuous at the chancel step, and at the direction of Pastor after everyone has come forward (for those at home online and those who choose to remain seated).

Follow the direction of the ushers to come to the front or remain seated and after all have come forward, direction for the prefilled host and grape juice will be given.

COMMUNION HYMN



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

IF YOU CHOOSE TO COME FORWARD:

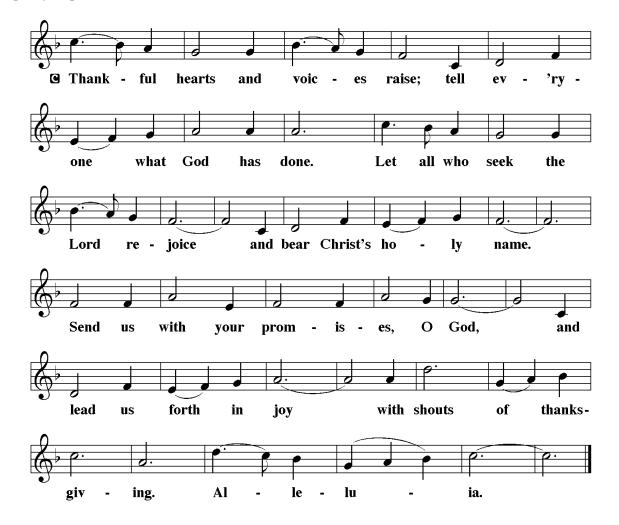
Follow the directions of Pastor and the Ushers.

IF YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN AT YOUR SEAT OR YOU ARE ONLINE:

Prepare your elements after all have come forward and wait for direction from Pastor.



CANTICLE



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in the sharing of this holy meal you bless us with the body and blood of your Son to refresh and restate all of your people.

Give us courage and guidance that we may continue to be your hands and feet in the world. Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

Beloved children of God, as we are sent from this place, know that God loves you. Remember Christ's presence is with you wherever you go.

Know that the Spirit is with you whenever you call on the Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

ELW # 618

Please be seated for the postlude.

Take this time to listen to the music and contemplate the message presented today.

POSTLUDE

Postlude in D Major

by C. Armstrong Gibbs

DISMISSAL

Go and serve others with the love of Christ! Thanks be to God!

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Weekly Household Devotions

Time After Pentecost

Year B - Lectionary 18 Sunday, July 31-August 6



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Psalm 107:1

Looking Back . . .

Sunday John 6:24-35 Bread from Heaven

Monday Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43 Thanksgiving for deliverance from troubles

Tuesday Isaiah 55:1-9 An invitation to abundant life

Wednesday Ephesians 4:17-24 The old life and the new

Looking Ahead . . .

Thursday Psalm 34:1-8 Praise for deliverance from trouble

Friday 2 Samuel 17:15-29 Hushai warns David to escape

Saturday Romans 15:1-6 Please others, not yourselves

Sunday John 6:35, 41-51 "I am the bread of life"



Pentecost: Service to Our Family, Friends and Neighbors

These next several weeks we will focus on how service can be done in simple ways in the very places we live. We can change how we think about what we do in our routines and out of our routines when we remember our call to serve and love one another.

This Week

Now that you have researched where you can help either donate supplies or fill backpacks or school kits go out and buy the supplies or volunteer at an event! Talk about what it means for children to be well supplied for school and how this is a gift you can give your community.

Faith on the Go



Dear God, thank you for all of your gifts that you have given us. May we use them to serve others. Amen



Who did you look for today? Why were you looking for them?



John 6:24-35 - Bread from Heaven

Day 1

John 6:24

This is the same crowd that Jesus fed with loaves and fish. They never saw Jesus get into a boat, only the disciples. What would make them cross the water to look for Jesus?

Day 2

John 6:25-27

Jesus suggests that the people looked for him because he gave them free food! What makes you look for Jesus? When do you feel the need to seek God out?

FAI H_ Chat

Day 3

John 6:28-31

They just saw Jesus turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into a feast, with leftovers, and now they want a sign! What do you think they are looking for? Is it really all about food?

Day 4

John 6:32-34

Do you think that Jesus and the crowd are talking about the same thing? What do you wish you could ask Jesus in this moment? What do you wish you could tell the crowd?

Day 5

John 6:35

How did the crowd hear this sentence? How do you hear it?



After a day at work or school tell one another: Rest in the love of Jesus.

Sunday 8/1 Pentecost 10

8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion

11:30 am - Fellowship Hour - Downstairs

Monday 8/2

9:00 am - 11:30 am - Food Pantry 7:00 pm - AA Meeting—Social Hall

Tuesday 8/3

9:00 am - 11:30 am - Food Pantry 6:30 pm - NA

Wednesday 8/4

9:00 am - 11:30 am - Food Pantry 11:30 - 3:30 - Bayside Bridge Group 7:00 pm—NA Meeting - Social Hall

Thursday 8/5

5:00 pm - Choir Rehearsal

6:00 pm—Food/Family/Faith dinner 7:00 pm - Al-Anon Meeting - Lounge

Friday 8/6

10:30 am - Grace Stitchers 7:30 pm - AA Meeting—Lounge

Saturday 8/7

Sunday 8/8 Pentecost 11

8:00 am—Spoken Service - Lounge

10:15 am - Liturgical Worship Service Holy Communion

11:30 am - Fellowship Hour - Downstairs

2021 FLOWER CHART is posted on the bulletin board outside the Church Office. Available for weekly dedications are Candles, Sanctuary Flowers, Bulletins, Wine & Anthems. Please sign your name next to the date and item on the chart you wish to have dedicated in the bulletin. For your convenience, flower /dedication envelopes are now available in the Narthex/Lobby. Please be sure to write your name on the date requested on the flower chart located in the Office Wing outside the Church Office.

Be sure to fill out the payment envelope with all the information for the bulletin, a week before (or sooner) your desired date, place it in the Offering plate or bring to the church office. Thank you, Diana

Dedications

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Thanks, Praise, Honor and Glory to God Our Father for 75 years of a Blessed Life Given by Diana