

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 11 - August 8, 2021

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #314 - “O Living Bread from Heaven”

**O living Bread from heaven,
How well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given
Have filled my heart with rest.
Oh, wondrous food of blessing,
Oh, cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing,
With praises overflows.**

**My Lord, you here have led me
Within your holiest place
And here have kindly fed me
With treasures of your grace,
For you have freely given
What earth could never buy,
The bread of life from heaven,
That now I shall not die.**

**You gave me all I wanted -
This food can death destroy -
And you have freely granted
The cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit
The favor you have shown,
And all my soul and spirit
Bow down before your throne.**

**Lord, grant me then, thus strengthened
With heav’nly food, while here**

**My course on earth is lengthened,
To serve with holy fear.
And when you call my spirit
To leave this world below,
I enter, through your merit,
Where joys unmingled flow.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Exodus 16:2-15

The entire Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we sat around pots of meat and ate as much food as we wanted, but now you have brought us out into this wilderness to have this whole community die of hunger." Then the Lord said to Moses, "Watch what I will do. I will rain down bread from heaven for you, and the people will go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test whether they will follow my instructions or not. On the sixth day they will prepare what they bring in, and it will be twice as much as they gather on the other days." So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "At evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the Glory of the Lord, because he has heard your constant grumbling against the Lord. Who are we that you should grumble against us?" Moses said, "Now the Lord will give you meat to eat in the evening and as much bread as you want in the morning, because the Lord has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? Your grumbling is

not against us but against the Lord.” Then Moses said to Aaron, “Tell the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the Lord, because he has heard your grumbling.’” As Aaron spoke to the entire Israelite community, they turned toward the wilderness, and suddenly the Glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. The Lord spoke to Moses: “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Say to them, ‘At evening you will eat meat, and in the morning you will eat bread until you are full. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’” So in the evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning a layer of dew surrounded the camp. When the layer of dew was gone, there were thin flakes on the surface of the wilderness, thin as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” because they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “This is the bread which the Lord has given to you as food to eat.” (EHV)

Psalm 145

Refrain: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**Great is the LORD and most wor’thy of praise;
His greatness no one can ‘fathom.**

**One generation will commend your works to an’other;
They will tell of your ‘mighty acts.**

**The LORD upholds all ‘those who fall
And lifts up all who are ‘bowed down.**

Refrain: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

**The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the ‘proper time.
You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every ‘living thing.**

**The LORD is near to all who ‘call on him,
To all who call on ‘him in truth.**

**He fulfills the desires of those who ‘fear him;
He hears their cry and ‘saves them.**

**Glory be to the Father and ‘to the Son
And to the Holy ‘Spirit,**

**As it was in the be'ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain: Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

Second Lesson: Ephesians 4:17-24

So I tell you this and testify to it in the Lord: Do not walk any longer as the Gentiles walk, in their futile way of thinking. They are darkened in their understanding, alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, due to the hardness of their hearts. Because they have no sense of shame, they have given themselves over to sensuality, with an ever-increasing desire to practice every kind of impurity. But you did not learn Christ in that way, if indeed you have heard of him and were taught in him (since the truth is in Jesus). As far as your former way of life is concerned, you were taught to take off the old self, which is corrupted by its deceitful desires, and to be renewed continually in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self, which has been created to be like God in righteousness and true holiness. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." Alleluia.

Gospel: John 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they asked him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus answered them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: You are not looking for me because you saw the miraculous signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not continue to work for the food that spoils, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval." So they said to him, "What should we do to carry out the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God: that you believe in the one he sent." Then they asked him, "So what miraculous sign are you going to do, that we may see it and believe you? What miraculous sign are you going to perform? Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the real bread from heaven. For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." "Sir," they said to him, "give us this bread all the time!" "I am the Bread of Life," Jesus told them. "The one who comes to me will

never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty.” (EHV)

The Apostles’ Creed:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #735 - “*Speak, O Lord*”

**Speak, O Lord, as we come to you
To receive the food of your Holy Word.
Take your truth, plant it deep in us;
Shape and fashion us in your likeness
That the light of Christ might be seen today
In our acts of love and our deeds of faith.
Speak, O Lord, and fulfill in us
All your purposes for your glory.**

**Teach us, Lord, full obedience,
Holy reverence, true humility.
Test our thoughts and our attitudes
In the radiance of your purity.
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see
Your majestic love and authority.
Words of pow’r that can never fail,
Let their truth prevail over unbelief.**

**Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds;
Help us grasp the heights of your plans for us.
Truths unchanged from the dawn of time,**

**That will echo down through eternity.
And by grace we'll stand on your promises,
And be faith we'll walk as you walk with us.
Speak, O Lord, as your Church is built
And you fill the earth with your glory.**

**The Sermon: Exodus 16:2-15
"Manna's Many Lessons"**

One of the most remarkable foods found in the Bible is something called **manna**. It first appeared on Israel's journey through the **wilderness** shortly after they had been delivered out of their slavery in **Egypt**. Manna is described in the Bible as tiny **flakes** - little **wafers** that tasted sweet, like **honey**. It would appear in the **morning** with the dew, and when the **sun** came up, it **melted**. Manna gets its **name** from the Hebrew words which the people spoke when they first **saw** it on the ground. They said, "Ma-na - What is it?" They didn't know what it **was**, because this was food which they had never **seen** before. In fact, this was food which had never **existed** before. God created it specifically for the Children of **Israel** during the time of their **journey** in the wilderness.

This morning we're going to find out that **manna** can teach us a few **lessons** - lessons which are very **appropriate** for our time. Today we hear about crises like oil shortages, water shortages, job losses, and dwindling investment returns. Politicians who are hoping to be reelected scramble to provide **answers** to these problems. As we look at the issues of **today's** world, maybe that tiny little flake called **manna** can **teach** us a few things - things like: Our **God** is in **control** - our God **loves** us - and in His **grace**, our God **provides** for **all** our needs. Let's take a closer look at **Manna's Many Lessons**.

In our text for today, the Children of Israel were about a **month and a half** into their journey to the Promised Land, and the food which they had brought along with them from Egypt had **run out**. So, the people **grumbled** against their **leaders**, Moses and Aaron. They said, "*If only we had **died** by the Lord's hand in the land of **Egypt**, when we sat around pots of meat and ate **as much food as we wanted**, but now you have brought us out into this **wilderness** to have this whole community **die of hunger**.*" I guess their short-term memory wasn't very good. They seem to have forgotten that when they were in Egypt they were **slaves** - and they had bitterly **complained** about it.

Their grumbling also shows the **weakness** of their **faith**. It wasn't **Moses** and **Aaron** who had led them out of Egypt - it was the **LORD**. By His mighty arm **God** had **destroyed** the pursuing Egyptian army, and had led the Israelites through the Red Sea **on dry ground**. Did they really think that He couldn't provide **food** for them as well?

God would have been perfectly justified to **rail** against them for their **grumbling**, and their lack of **faith**. But instead, God responded with **love**. He told Moses, "*Watch what I will do. I will **rain down bread from heaven** for you.*" So, Moses - through his brother **Aaron** - **relayed** that message to the Israelites. He said, "*At **evening** you will know that it was the **LORD** who brought you out of the land of Egypt, and in the **morning** you will see the **Glory** of the LORD, because he has heard your constant **grumbling** against the LORD. Who are **we** that you should grumble against **us**?"*

Then in verse 10 we're told, "*As Aaron spoke to the entire Israelite community, they turned toward the wilderness, and suddenly the **Glory** of the Lord **appeared** in the cloud.*" This was a physical appearance of **God Himself** - the **same** God who had promised to send their forefathers a **Savior** who would provide the whole **world** with the **forgiveness of sins** - the same God who had **delivered** them out of their **slavery** in Egypt. God was showing them that **He** is in **control**.

That evening **quail** showed up, and **covered** the camp. This was the **meat** which God had promised them. In the morning the **manna** appeared on the floor of the desert. This was the **bread** which God had promised them. There was no **question** about what was **happening**. The **quail** didn't just appear **by chance**, and the **ground** didn't produce the manna. These blessings came from **God**. What the Israelites **didn't** know at that time was that this manna would **continue** to be there for them for the entire 40 years which they would spend in the wilderness. And then when they entered into the Promised Land, it would **stop** - never to be seen again. This blessing of **manna** was God's way of teaching Israel that **He** was the one who had delivered them from their slavery in **Egypt** - that **He** was the one who was **leading** them through the wilderness - and that **He** was the one who was providing **food** for their bodies. And God was **doing** all of these things in spite of **their sins** because He **loved** them. The manna was teaching the Israelites to look to **God** with thanksgiving **every day**, as they received their daily bread, and to **thank** Him for His **goodness**.

That same gracious Lord also supplies **us** with **our** daily bread. Grace is described as God's **undeserved** love for sinners. None of us **deserve** the daily

bread which we **receive**. We're just like the **Israelites**. We **complain** - we **compare** what we have with what **others** have (or with what we had in the **past**) - and we conveniently **forget** so many of the blessings that we **continue** to receive each and every day. Every morning we have food in our **cupboards** and **refrigerators**. **Why?** It's because of God's **grace** to us in His **Son**, Jesus Christ. As we live our lives here on the earth, the Lord provides for **all** of our needs, and He **does** so purely out of His **goodness** and **mercy**. Manna teaches us that **everything** we have - our homes, our jobs and income, our clothing and food - every necessity of life comes from our gracious heavenly Father through our **Savior** Jesus Christ. And He will **continue** to provide for our needs **throughout** this earthly life, because we have His **promise**: "*God will fully supply your every need, according to his glorious riches in **Christ Jesus**.*"

But best of all, the **manna** which God sent to Israel from **heaven**, was a **picture** of the Lord Jesus **Himself**. Jesus told the people of His day, "*My Father gives you the **real** bread from heaven. For the bread of **God** is the one who **comes down** from heaven and **gives life** to the world ... **I am the bread of life**. Your fathers ate **manna** in the wilderness, and they **died**. **This** is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat it and **not die**. **I am the living bread** which came down from heaven. If anyone eats **this** bread, he will live **forever**. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my **flesh**."* Jesus was **sent** to us from **heaven**. And Jesus freely offered His sinless life as a sacrifice on the cross, to provide **eternal life** for the world. There is **more** to life than just **living** and **dying**, because with the **forgiveness** which Jesus has earned **for** us and given **to** us, we will live **beyond** this world. Jesus is the manna from **heaven** who gives us **eternal** life.

But God's gift of manna was meant to do **more** than just fill the hungry **stomachs** of His people as they journeyed through the wilderness. God also wanted to strengthen their **trust** in Him **each and every day**, so He provided manna in a way that would **test** them, to see if they would **obey** Him. It's interesting that each morning they would be able to gather as much as they needed **for that day**. But if they tried to **keep** some of the manna until the **next** day, it would **rot**. He also told them to gather **twice as much** manna on **Friday**, so they would have enough food for the **Sabbath**. And on **that** day, it **didn't** rot. On the **Sabbath** day they were to focus on **God's promise** that He would send a **Savior** to them - a Savior who would bring forgiveness for the **world**, and who would provide His people with **eternal** rest in **heaven**.

It's also important for **us** to **trust** that the Lord will give us the things we need **each day**. That's why Jesus taught us to pray, "*Give us **this day** our daily bread.*" We are to live **one day** at a time. And as we **do** that, God also enables us to focus our thoughts on the **eternal** rest which Jesus has provided for us. Jesus Himself said, "*Seek first the kingdom of **God** and his **righteousness**, and all these **things** will be given to you as well.*" We can find **rest** in the knowledge that our sins have all been **forgiven**. And we can find **peace** in knowing the door to heaven is **wide open** for us. Through God's Word and Sacraments, He gives us **everything** we need for body and soul. He satisfies our hunger for **righteousness**, He enables us to be **content** with what He has given, He fills us with the **peace** of knowing that God has **earned** and **provided** our eternal salvation, and He stirs up a **longing** in us to experience the joys of **heaven**.

May we set our hearts on God's kingdom, and may we arrange our weekly schedules around **hearing** God's Word and **worshiping** Him, because **Manna's Many Lessons** remind us that, "*All depends on our possessing God's abundant **grace and blessing**.*" As we make **Jesus** and His **salvation** the **first** and **most important** meal of our week, God will see to it that we will also have **everything we need** for our daily lives. Amen.

Prayers:

Gracious God our heavenly Father, how wonderful it is that we who were conceived and born in **sin** - who by our sins were Your **enemies** and objects of Your **wrath** - that we should be called Your **children** through **faith** in Jesus. We certainly don't **deserve** this great privilege and honor. We sincerely **thank You** for providing **everything** we need, both physically and spiritually. We also pray that You would work **repentance** in our hearts each day, and move us to continually **trust** in Your **mercy**. You **loved** us, and sent Your **Son** to save us, so we ask You to set us free from all **guilt**, and spare us from all **punishment**, for **His** sake. We **trust** You to deliver us from all **temptation**, and to help us through every time of **trouble** and **peril**.

Dear Savior, we **thank** You that You willingly came here to take away our **sins**, and make us **right** in God's sight. Help us to **crucify** our sinful flesh with its lusts and desires, and lead us to set our hearts on **things above** - particularly on the wonderful **rest** that awaits us in **heaven**. You are the **reason** we can hope and plan for heaven, because it's through **You** that God **forgives** our sins and declares us **righteous**. Keep us from hardening our hearts **against** You, and from turning to **unbelief**. Help us **resist** the devil and his temptations, to **quell** the lusts of our flesh, and to **turn away** from the idols of this world. By Your Spirit, enable us

always to take You at Your **Word**, and to trust **all** that You promise.

Lord Jesus, while we live in this world, constantly remind us that our treasure is **not here**, but rather, it's in **heaven** with You. Keep us watchful, and waiting for the time of Your return, when You will take us to be with You forever in that heavenly home. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Hymn #750 - "*Christ, the Word of God Incarnate*"

**Christ, the Word of God incarnate,
Lord and Son of Abraham;
Christ, the radiance of the Father,
Perfect God, the great I Am;
Christ, the Light you shine unvanquished,
Light and life you bring to all;
Light our path with your own presence,
Grant us grace to heed your call.**

**Christ, the living bread from heaven,
Food for body, food for soul;
Christ, the manna, daily given,
Nourish, strengthen, make us whole.
Feed us with the food of heaven,
Foretaste of the feast to be;
Quench our thirst with living water
Springing up eternally.**

**Christ, the shoot that springs triumphant
From the stump of Jesse's tree;
Christ, true vine, you nurture branches
To bear fruit abundantly.
Graft us into you, O Savior;
Prune our hearts so we remain
Fruitful branches in your vineyard
Till eternal life we gain.**

**Christ, our good and faithful Shepherd,
Watching all your lambs and sheep;
Christ, the gate that guards the sheepfold,
Never-failing vigil keep.
When we stray, Good Shepherd, seek us,
Find us, lift us, bear us home;
Lamb of God, our Shepherd, keep us;
Let us hear your voice alone.**

**Christ, the way that leads unfailing
To the Father's home on high;
Christ, the truth that frees the captive;
Christ, the life that cannot die.
Mediator to the Father,
Sacrifice and Great High Priest:
Lead us to your heav'nly mansions,
There to share your wedding feast.**

**Christ, the Alpha and Omega;
Christ, the firstborn from the dead;
Christ, the life and resurrection;
Christ, the Church's glorious head:
Praise and thanks and adoration
And unending worship be
To the Father and the Spirit
And to you eternally.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit! As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

Hymn #331 - *“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”*

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy pow’rful hand.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliv’rer, be thou still my strength and shield.**

**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 of praises I will ever give to thee.**