

AUGUST 15, 2021
TWELFTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Jesus as the bread of life binds us together.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink
Monday	Proverbs 9:1-6	Wisdom's feast
Tuesday	Ephesians 5:15-20	Be filled with the Spirit
Wednesday	Acts 2:41-47	Life among believers
Thursday	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	The Lord's Supper
Friday	Matthew 26:17-30	The Passover with the disciples
Saturday	Psalms 34:9-14	God teaches the fear of the Lord
Sunday	John 6:56-71	Many disciples desert Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." John 6:51 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, we thank you for your love that unites us in Christ and promises us life everlasting. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for the gift of this food today, just as we thank you for Jesus Christ and the gift of his presence to know and to share with one another. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the bread of heaven, bless you with life and faith now and always.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart



WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What are some ways you enjoy spending time with family and friends?
- How does having meals together help build relationships?
- How does the Lord's Supper help you experience and feel the closeness of the Christian community?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:51-58.

John's Gospel does not have the words adapted for the Lord's Supper that one finds in Matthew, Luke, or 1 Corinthians. However, here you have Jesus speaking in terms that clearly reflect the Lord's Supper. John's Gospel interprets the meal's significance as a new manna, the bread from heaven that the Israelites received in the wilderness. While the Israelites would continue to complain and turn away from God, those who receive Jesus in the Lord's Supper, the bread from heaven, will live forever. They will abide with Jesus and Jesus with them. Jesus, as the bread from heaven, binds us together as the community of disciples. Such is the power and meaning of this meal for all generations. In the Lord's Supper Jesus has a relationship to his followers and his followers enjoy a relationship to each other. How does the Lord's Supper strengthen your relationship to other Christians? How does the Lord's Supper help you in your relationship with Jesus?

Pray: **Living God, we thank you for Jesus and the Lord's Supper that binds us to him, to one another, and to the promise of eternal life with you. Amen.**

SERVICE

Sharing a meal together is a valuable way to nurture relationships. Invite friends, family, especially those who live alone to have a meal with you, so that you may get to know them better and bless them with your care. Talk about your recent highs and lows and then pray together.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Ephesians 5:19 encourages us to *"sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your heart."* Think of some of your favorite hymns, children's songs, and psalms from the Bible. Sing them, read them as an offering to God, or listen to them online as music strengthens you in your life of faith.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org