

## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

John 6:24-35      8-5-18

### QUESTIONS THAT CLARIFY

*“Jesus 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.’”* John 6:35

This is the second of five Sundays in which the Gospel lessons are all from John 6 and deal with Jesus, “the Bread of Life.”

Last week’s Gospel lesson about the multiplication of 5 loaves and 2 fish leads to a series of questions and answers between Jesus and the crowds that clarify what the previous miracle was all about and at the same time point to Jesus’ true identity. Jesus is “the Bread of Life.”

- Question 1: *When did you come here?*
- Question 2: *What must we do to perform the works of God?*
- Question 3: *What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you?*

There are two basic ways in which this question and answer exchange Jesus has with the crowds apply to us.

*“The soul would like to live forever, not to be damned but to have a gracious God...This is the desire of the soul, this is a spiritual hunger and thirst; and to satisfy this hunger and thirst we need the spiritual food and drink which are supplied when the Holy Spirit comes and says: If you do not want to die or be damned, then come to Christ, believe on Him, hold to Him, eat this spiritual food. Let this be your primary concern.”* Edwin Plass, *What Luther Says*, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, 1959, #1377, p. 467.

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## Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

**John 6:35, 41-51      8-12-18**

**BREAD FROM HEAVEN**

“Jesus 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.’” John 6:35

“Bread” is often used to summarize all that is necessary for physical life. When Jesus says he is “the bread of life,” he expands the meaning of the term to include all that is necessary for spiritual life.

- Each of us knows about physical hunger. We also know about spiritual hunger.
- If physical hunger is not met, we die. So also is it with spiritual hunger.
- There are a variety of ways Jesus meets our deep spiritual hunger and we truly discover him to be what he claims to be, “the bread of life.”

*“O Bread of life from heaven, O Food to pilgrims given,  
O Manna from above:  
Feed with the blessed sweetness of your divine completeness  
The souls that want and need your love.”*

Hymn #222,  
*Lutheran Book of Worship, APH, Mpls, 1978*

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**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Ephesians 5:15-20      8-19-18**

**“Live as Persons Who Are Wise”**

**INTRODUCTION: The Reunion....**

- A. My Dad used to say that there’s even some good in a bad example.**
- B. A bad example will only do us some good if we pay attention and avoid the problems resulting.**

***A Luther Sermon Quotation:* [Comment: In a sermon on Ephesians 5:15-21**

Luther comments on our failure to be paying attention to bad examples.] *This terrible example is still before our eyes, and yet we pay no attention to it but pursue the same course and persist not only in our disobedience to the will of God but also in our slighting of His grace. For this grace we should sigh and pray with all earnestness, and we should help to ensure for our children after us the possession of Baptism, the ministry, and the Sacrament in their purity.* (Plass, *What Luther Says*, 1144, p. 389)

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### **Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Joshua 24:1-2a      8-26-18**

**“We Also Will Serve the Lord, for He is Our God”**

**A. Some background for our text....**

**B. What do we do with a reading like this today?**

***A Luther Sermon Quotation:*** [**Comment:** With the exposition of John 6:56 Luther writes in 1531.] *Christ is in earnest when He says that if you believe in Him, you will abide with Him and He will abide with you. For, says He, I am in you; and if you lack anything, I have righteousness, holiness, and wisdom in plenty. I have no infirmity. But if you have weakness, it is in Me; and I will see to it that I relieve it and drown your weakness in My power and strength, submerge your sin in my righteousness, and devour your death by My life.* (Plass, *What Luther Says*, 689, p. 232)