

(John 6: 22- 59)The Bread of Life Discourse from Jesus (Holy Thursday-Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist)

The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with His disciples in the boat, but only His disciples had left.

Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks. When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

And when they found Him across the sea they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them and said, "*Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for Me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled. Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.*"

So they said to Him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "*This is the work of God, that you believe in the One He sent.*"

So they said to him, "What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in You? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

So Jesus said to them, "*Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.*"

So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "*I Am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me will never hunger, and whoever believes in Me will never thirst.*

But I told you that although you have seen Me, you do not believe. Everything that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and I will not reject anyone who

comes to Me, because I came down from heaven not to do My own will but the will of the One who sent Me. And this is the will of the One who sent Me, that I should not lose anything of what He gave Me, but that I should raise it on the last day. For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have eternal life, and I shall raise him on the last day."

The Jews murmured about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven," and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know His father and mother? Then how can He say, 'I have come down from heaven'?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "*Stop murmuring* among yourselves. No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: 'They shall all be taught by God.'* Everyone who listens to My Father and learns from Him comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the One who is from God; He has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I Am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I Am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this Bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "*Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent Me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on Me will have life because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this Bread will live forever.*"

These things He said while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

(Jesus was referring to Himself which He ordained in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist during the Last Supper. The 'transubstantiation' where the

bread and wine are mystically transformed by God into the body and blood of Jesus at the moment of consecration during the celebration of the Roman Catholic Mass.)