

# TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 13

Sustaining Bread

We Know Where We Will Be Found

August 1, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

Bread, in one form or another, is a diet staple in most every culture. Though today we can be overwhelmed at the grocery store with countless types and styles, even in its simplest form, bread continues to sustain stomachs in a variety of ways. Bread, or the simplest form of manna, is what the Lord would use to sustain His people in the wilderness, and the image of bread is what He would use to help people understand the greater gift He came to give in His own Son. Yet, more than sustaining a diet for this body and life, Jesus, the bread of life, has come to serve us salvation, sustain our souls, and feed us with His forgiveness. Have you ever heard the phrase “Can’t see the forest for the trees”? It means to be so caught up with the smaller focuses (the trees) that a grander picture (the forest) is not noticed. After Jesus miraculously fed the multitudes of people, they struggled to see the forest for the trees. Many marveled, and rightfully so, at their earthly needs met through Christ’s power. Yet, Jesus came for more than providing meals and filling stomachs. He came to provide the greater things of forgiveness and eternal life. Through His teaching, people then and we now learn more of those greater things for which He came, that all in time could be able to see the forest from the trees, namely, forgiveness from the tree—the cross to which He would go.

## ✘ PREPARATION ✘

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

Lord, the eyes of all look to You in hope; and You give them what they need. You open Your hand and satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing. We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled—to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from Your life-giving streams, to taste Your goodness and live. May the time we spend together in Your presence nourish our hearts and minds; may it strengthen our relationship with You, and renew our commitment to live in this world as Your faithful disciples. For You alone are God, the Source and Sustainer of life. Remind us that there is but

one Body and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, so that we may all truly be of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and that with one mind and one mouth we may glorify you, through Jesus Christ our Lord who reigns together with you and the Holy Spirit, in a Kingdom without end. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:**

As a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) church, we believe and confess that through the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine. As we commune with faith and repentance, we receive the forgiveness of sins and power to amend our sinful lives. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord's Supper.

**WELCOME:**

**WELCOME to GOD'S HOUSE...** Come and worship the One whose love knows no limits! Resurrect your spirits and souls in worship of the One! Welcome to Bethel Lutheran Church this Tenth Sunday After Pentecost. We come today to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love. We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life. We pray our ministry of Word and Sacrament is renewing to your faith and life. Your presence is a blessing to all who are worshipping with us today. Welcome one another, for Christ welcomes you: Let's worship together!

**SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**INVOCATION**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** Amen.

**OPENING SENTENCES** *Exodus 16:12; John 6:26–27*

**Pastor:** "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread.

**People:** Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.'"

Pastor: Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

**People: Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life,**

Pastor: which the Son of Man will give to you. For on Him God the Father has set His seal.”

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**      *John 6:33, 35; 1 John 1:9*

Pastor: Jesus is the bread of life, come down from heaven to give life to the world.

**People: Lord, we hunger for Your presence.**

Pastor: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**People: Lord, we hunger for Your forgiveness.**

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God, our Father,

**People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

Pastor: In the wilderness of this world we forget Your presence.

**People: We grumble and complain about Your provision.**

Pastor: We focus too often on our wants and needs of this world.

**People: We fail to rejoice in the daily giving of Your grace and mercy.**

Pastor: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

**People: Lord, we hunger for You. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. “For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. . . . Jesus said, ‘I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.’” As a called and

ordained servant of Christ, the bread of life, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:**      **Lord, You fill us with forgiveness. Amen.**

**☩ WORD ☩**

**HYMN OF PRAISE            “Fill My Cup, Lord”   TFBF 124**

1 Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up, Lord! Come and quench this thirsting of my soul;  
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more – Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

**SALUTATION**

**Pastor:**                    The Lord be with you.

**People:**                **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Pastor:**                Let us pray.

Merciful Father, You so loved the world You gave Your only Son to come down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Feed us by Your Means of Grace and fill us through Your Spirit with Your gift of faith as we follow You in ways that lead to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**                **Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING    *Exodus 16:2–15*    (Bread from heaven)**

**Leader:**                This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**                **Thanks be to God.**

**SELECTION                    Minister Terry Dale**

**GRADUAL    *Romans 11:33, 36***

Leader: Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
People: **How unsearchable are His judgments and how inscrutable His ways!**

Leader: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.  
People: **To Him be glory forever. Amen.**

**EPISTLE**     *Ephesians 4:1–16* (Unity in the Body of Christ)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *John 6:35b* [See *Music Index*]

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.  
People: **I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst.**

Leader: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *John 6:22–35*     (Jesus is the bread of life.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.  
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**SERMON**

**SELECTION**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering)**

## **The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Ever-present Lord, in this world, a place of sin and wilderness, You give us what we need to sustain our bodies and lives. Greater than anything, You sent Your Son from heaven to be the bread of life that we never hunger for grace and forgiveness. We humbly ask You to be with us, sustain us, lead us, and guide us through this land all our days.

## **HYMN“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” TLH 54 St. 1**

1 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.

Pastor: Lord of all comfort and peace, hear the cries of all who bear burdens emotionally, spiritually, and physically. We especially lay before You those who desire our prayers, [*including . . .*]. Give hope

to those who mourn and grieve, [*especially . . .*]. Let Your presence be known, and heal according to Your will. Point us to the greater healing of eternal life in the resurrection.

## **HYMN“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” TLH 54 St. 2**

2 Open now the crystal fountain whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong Deliv'rer, be Thou still my Strength and Shield.

Pastor: Lord of all provision, we thank You for the daily bread You give to us. As You provide for all Your creatures, give us grateful hearts to live in continual thanks to You. Work Your justice and mercy through our leaders and those throughout the world. Enliven our faith that fruits be had in loving service to our neighbors. Feed us with Your Word and Spirit, and as we receive Your body and blood in this Sacrament, satisfy our hunger and thirst for forgiveness and grant nourishment of faith.

## **HYMN“Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” TLH 54 St. 3**

3 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.

*Individual petitions may be added.*

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

**✠ SACRAMENT ✠**

**PREFACE** 2 Timothy 4:22

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, who fed Your children in the wilderness with manna from heaven and feed us today with bread from heaven, the Living Bread, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** “Holy, Holy, Holy” [TLH 246 Sts. 4]

4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;*

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**LORD’S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

## **PAX DOMINI**

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: Amen.**

## **DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

## **POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us in, with, and under bread and wine with the body and blood of Your dear Son, supplying not only for our stomachs but for our souls. Sustain us in faith and life in Christ that we may do the good You



desire and faithfully live out our days in Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**     **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**     *John 6:26–27a; Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor:     Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

**People:**     **Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life,**

Pastor:     which the Son of Man will give to you.”

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:**     **Amen.**

**HYMN “Blessed Assurance” TFBF 118**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long; this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight; angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest, watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]