

AUGUST 8, 2021
ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST



Eternal life begins now through faith in Jesus.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 6:35, 41-51	Bread from heaven
Monday	1 Kings 19:4-8	Elijah flees from Jezebel
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:25—5:2	Rules for the new life
Wednesday	Colossians 1:9-14	Paul thanks God
Thursday	Proverbs 8:32-36	Listen to what you are taught
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-16	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalm 34:1-8	Taste and see
Sunday	John 6:51-58	Christ, the true food and drink

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

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 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, give us faith to see in Jesus the bread of life that feeds us and cares for us now and always. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear Bread of Life, we thank you that with this gift of food, we taste and see that you are good. Amen. (Psalm 34:8 and John 6:35)

A Blessing to Give:

May God come to you and bless you with faith and hope through Christ our Lord.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK
We Are an Offering



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 is something that you look forward to?
- How do your hopes for the future affect your life today?
- How does faith in Jesus impact your life today and in the future?

DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:35, 41-51.

Twice in this text Jesus says "I am the bread of life" (vv. 35 and 48). He also says "I am the living bread" (v. 51). These words create tension with those who object to Jesus making such claims about himself. This text acknowledges that the uniqueness of Jesus causes a divide between those who accept Jesus' identity and those who do not. This passage does not try to explain why some believe while others do not, except to note that those who believe in Jesus do so by God's power. Jesus also states that believing in him as the one who is the bread of life gives not just life but eternal life. The eternal life that Jesus gives begins now, not just at some future time. It is not for us to understand how one comes to believe in Jesus as the bread of life, except to know that it is a gift from God. Jesus is the source of life that begins now and knows no end. It is a life entered through faith in Jesus, the one whose life feeds the world in hope. How is it helpful for you to know that eternal life with God has already begun?

Pray: **Living God, give us Jesus, the bread of life, that we may live each day in faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

SERVICE

Ephesians 4:26 says: "do not let the sun go down on your anger." Anger that festers against others destroys relationships and entire communities. Take time this week to reflect on those with whom you may have experienced conflict. Pray for a clean heart that forgives this person and that you can receive forgiveness from this person.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Sometimes we are focused on the future or on disappointments in life and miss God's care for us now. Write a list of ways God's eternal care blesses your life today. After composing the list pray: **Gracious God, thank you for caring for [name what is on your list]. Thank you for the gift of life that blesses me now and in the future. Amen.**



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