

AUGUST 19, 2018
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

taking⁺ faith home

A relationship with Jesus gives us eternal life.

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	Matthew 26:26-30	The Lord's Supper
Thursday	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Institution of the Lord's Supper
Friday	Acts 2:37-46	Life among believers
Saturday	Psalm 34:9-14	God teaches the fear of the Lord
Sunday	John 6:56-69	Many disciples desert Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them."

John 6:56 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for being with us, feeding us, and giving us eternal life that has already begun. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

In wisdom you have set your table and invited us to eat. Thank you for this food and for you to meet. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May your Lord Jesus Christ, the living bread, feed you, forgive you, and be with you always.



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HYMN OF THE WEEK

I Received the Living God



CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- How do you develop or help make a close and trusted friendship?
- To believe in Jesus is to experience Jesus and to have Jesus dwell with us. How do you experience Jesus dwelling with you?
- In Holy Communion we receive the living bread through the body and blood of Jesus Christ in bread and wine. How does this meal celebrated in a community of faith give you an experience of Jesus?

DEVOTIONS



Read: John 6:51-58.

Unlike the other three gospels, the Gospel of John does not have a scene that includes the words of institution at Jesus' last supper, the words that become the foundation for the Lord's Supper. However, John is clearly aware of the Christian use of the Lord's Supper. John 6 makes a direct connection to the practice of this meal with the reference to eating and drinking of Jesus' flesh and blood. Jesus promises that those who "eat my flesh and drink my blood" have an intimate and eternal relationship to him; they abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in them (v. 56). The important point for the Gospel is that the Lord's Supper gives Jesus' followers an immediate experience of the risen Christ, one that brings new life now, an eternal life that has already begun. How is it that believing in Jesus is more than an acceptance of who our Lord Jesus Christ is, but also involves a relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ?

Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for being with us, feeding us, and giving us eternal life that has already begun. Amen.

SERVICE



Share the blessings you have received from God with a needy child or family overseas. Use a trusted organization like your local congregation or national church office to help you learn about the possibilities and enable you to make a contribution.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Ephesians 5:19 urges us to "sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts." Spend time together with family and/or friends and make a list of your favorite Christian hymns or songs. Sing them or pray them together. You can also create your own songbook that you can use each week and take them on your vacations. Encourage children and others to decorate the songbook with artwork.