

NEXT STEP: STUDY & SHARE

READINGS

Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm 34:9-14

Those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. (v10)

John 6:51-58

Luke 1:46-55

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, in choosing the virgin Mary to be the mother of your Son, you made known your gracious regard for the poor, the lowly, & the despised. Grant us grace to receive your word in humility, & so to be made one with your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior & Lord, who lives & reigns with you & the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. Amen.

SERMON TEXT- John 6:51-58

⁵¹[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; & the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man & drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh & drink my blood have eternal life, & I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food & my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh & drink my blood abide in me, & I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, & I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, & they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

LISTENING TO . . .

GOD- *Christian life is rooted in the Father, Son, & Holy Spirit*

1. Consider *Genesis 9:1-6; Leviticus 3:14-17, 17:10-14, 19:26; Deuteronomy 12:16, 23-24, 15:23*. How is Jesus being misunderstood? Yet his language is unambiguous; what do you think he means? See *Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Small Catechism: Holy Communion, available < bookofconcord.org >*. Is there anything else Jesus is getting at? Make use of your study Bible's cross references, especially if you have a Lutheran Study Bible from Concordia Publishing House < www.cph.org/c-2885-the-lutheran-study-bible.aspx. >
2. What connections can you find between *John 6:51-58 & Luke 1:46-55*? What does *Mark 12:18-27* add?

EACH OTHER- *Sharing & growing with our brothers & sisters in Christ*

3. Building on #1, review SC: Holy Communion, Large Catechism: Holy Communion 10, 13-14, 17-19, 23-24, 31, 64-66; & Formula of Concord Solid Declaration VII 61, 76. How do these passages help you understand Holy Communion as Jesus true (real, actual, literal) body & blood given & shed for you? SC, LC, FCSD available < bookofconcord.org >
4. What makes it Jesus body & blood: the pastor/priest? The ritual? The recipient's correct beliefs? Something else? *Hint: see Matthew 26:26; Mark 14:22; Luke 22:19; 1 Corinthians 11:24* How does this drive home the graceful nature of the Sacrament for you?

NEIGHBORS- *Bearing fruit for those not yet our brothers & sisters*

5. It seems our contemporary culture is more upset by Jesus' claims of particularity & exclusivity rather than his language about flesh & blood. How does *John 6:51-58* connect with *John 3:13-21*? How do the seven I Am statements (*6:35, 8:12, 10:9, 10:11, 14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1, 5*) help you speak clearly to others about Jesus as the only savior who brings us forgiveness, life, & salvation?
6. Review *vv41-51* from last week. How does the Father use your local congregation draw (new) people to Jesus so that they may trust him, know him, & eat his flesh & drink his blood? Think of "draw" in the sense of "to cause to go in a certain direction (as by leading)", or "to bring by inducement or allure: attract", or "to bring out by way of response: elicit"¹.

1. "Draw." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/draw>. Accessed 12 Aug. 2021.
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Festival of St. Mary, Mother of Our Lord

08.15.21

Series: The Heavenly Meal

Rev. Jared Stillions, STS

Bridges Time

*He has helped his servant, according to his promise of mercy
made to Abraham & his descendants forever*

-Notes-

KEY VERSE: Just as the living Father sent me, & I live because of the
Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. (v57)

-NEXT STEPS MEMORY VERSE-

Greetings, O favored one! The Lord is with you.
The Holy Spirit will come upon you. (*Luke 1:28, 35*)

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