

August 22, 2021
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Psalm 34

Ephesians 5: 21-32

John 6: 60-69

Rise Above the Flesh

Today we finish the Bread of Life Discourse.

Just to review, John's Gospel is written about one and a half generations after Jesus walked this earth. John's community of faith grew out of the Jewish community. The Jewish community was throwing the Johannine community out. They did not believe as John's people did that Jesus was the Messiah. Further, they did not accept all this about Jesus being the Bread of Life come down from heaven. So John writes to his faith community to remind them what they do believe and to remain committed to the practice of the Faith. Already, at that time, the early followers of Jesus were celebrating the Eucharist and knew it was the body of Christ that sustains them for the earthly journey they were on. They believed in Jesus' word spoken at the Last Supper, "This is my Body and this is my Blood." Moreover, they followed Jesus' mandate, "Do this in remembrance of me." Today's passage concludes the discourse. It shows even some of those who originally followed Jesus' way were falling away.

The whole notion of the Bread of Life come down from Heaven is one of closeness. God's closeness to us and our closeness to God. To experience this is to have what I feebly define as a poetic or artist's mind or vision. Such a vision seems to be able to go beyond the flesh of the world. Yes, the Lord gives us his flesh for the life of the world meaning we may go beyond the flesh of the world. This probably sounds oxymoronic. That is, a combination of contradictory or incongruous words. In simple terms it does not make sense in common or fleshy terms.

God always communicates with us in ways we understand or that are familiar to us. So he comes to us in the form of bread and wine for example. Yet, these familiar forms are to take us into God's greater, expanded, well beyond the immediately familiar world. These signs and symbols that are truly consecrated by God are used by God to help us transcend this fleshy world. We do get to touch God who is beyond all that may confine us in that which we see only with human eyes in the concrete world. Moreover, God touches us! God touching us and we touching God. Herein is the matter. A relationship that is mutual and understanding.

In one way all that is spoken of in the Bread of Life Discourse is about making a relationship with God and with each other. True, some people cannot grasp this purely on the force of the written and even poetic word. John desperately tried to do so. However, to know John's community of faith is to know it as one tight knit one of love, understanding and mutuality. They helped each other. Yet, some still left. The ones who left simply could not grasp the whole matter of such love. It was too much for them. They left.

What I am getting at here is this. To overcome the flesh of this world we must engage it. We must engage the people who are confused and unable to experience a deeper sense of

love that is beyond "fleshy" love. The love of real concern for each other, the kind that says I really want to know you and I truly want you to know me is love that goes beyond the merely "fleshy love".

To have such mutual love, the kind God is capable of but that which God will share with us, takes a willingness to experience it and to share it and to pause to show it and to see it.

It is very difficult to love this way, God's way. But that is why God gives us his flesh for the life of the world, the Bread of Life. To infuse us with Grace. It is impossible to have such love for others all by ourselves. I cannot and you cannot sustain such a relationship. It is too intense and too hard to have with many people. But we any attempt such with God's grace. But, we must be willing to do so. That is to open up to Godly love. And, making the connection on the faith community level, such as the parish, can be done, even if imperfectly.

To illustrate, Blessed Sacrament, named for the Bread of Life, is to be a place where people come to find healing. I myself am a broken person in need of love. I want to be welcomed here too. And, I know that in our imperfect way we the parish members make people feel welcome, at least at first.

Over the years people have said thank you to me as the Pastor here. They said thank you to me and this parish for listening to him or her. Their dream of encountering flawed people like themselves who have God's love has come true. They have told me they tried other parishes but were turned away either literally or by a sense of not belonging. That has brought sadness and joy to me at once. Sadness that they were rejected elsewhere and joy that in our feebleness we accepted them. Perhaps these people caught me or someone else in this parish "on a good day" when I was open to listening. Yet, even after such a warm encounter people still walk away.

Believe it or not such love does get rejected. It is too much for some. They too leave. Perhaps it is too much to believe that God can break through the fleshy world. It is hard to believe such love can be experienced through other feeble, broken people. And it might also be that they are not yet ready to love in return.

As pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish I want to be as refreshed and sustained in the Lord, the Bread of Life, as possible. I want to experience it from the altar of the Liturgy, and I want to experience it from the people too. I too want to know God's love, be understanding and to be understood. I want all of us to rise above the flesh.

Next Week's Readings
Dt4:1-2,6-8; Jas1:17-18,21b-22,27; Mk7:1-8,14-15,21-23
Join us for Scripture Sharing Thursdays at 7:00pm in the chapel.

Stewardship

Attendance last week:	252
Tithes Collected:	\$4,541.00
Online Giving:	\$360.00
Total:	\$4,901.00

Thank you!

If you are returning from vacation and have been away PLEASE catch up with your tithes

LITURGY FOR AUGUST 22, 2021
21 Sunday Ordinary Time :Cycle B

• **SONG #1: TABLE OF PLENTY (D. Schutte)**

1. **Come to the feast of heaven and earth! Come to the table of plenty! God will provide for all that we need, here at the table of plenty!**
2. O Come and sit at my table where saints and sinners are friends. I wait to welcome the lost and lonely to share the cup of my love.
3. O come and eat without money; come to drink without price. My feast of gladness will feed your spirit with faith and fullness of life.
4. My bread will ever sustain you through days of sorrow and woe. My wine will flow like a sea of gladness to flood the depths of your soul.
5. Your fields will flower in fullness; your homes will flourish in peace. For I, the giver of home and harvest, will send my rain on the soil.

• **PSALM 118: (Alstott)**

Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord

• **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life.

SONG # 2: Make Your Home in Me (Walther)

1. Every fox, a den; every bird, a nest; but the Son of Man has no place to rest. Every heart, a man; every king, a throne; but the word Made Flesh, no earthly home.
2. **Your burden's light and your yoke is easy. Your name is love and your grace is free. My heart was locked but you had the key. Make your home in me, make your home in me.**
3. Lord, you come to me in your homelessness; burning in your eyes, such a great distress. Who will heal your wounds? Who will make your bed? I will comfort you, I will share my bread.

• **SONG #3: BREAD, BLESSED AND BROKEN (M. Lynch)**

1. Jesus, you're the one I love; you're the one I know. You're the one who makes me strong, Spirit in my soul.
2. From the clouds of yesterday, through the night of pain, teach me, Lord to know your way, know it once again.
3. **Bread, blessed and broken for us all, symbol of your love from the grain so tall. Bread, blessed and broken for us all, bread of life you give to us, bread of life for all.**
4. May the bread we break today, may the cup we share lift the burdens of our hearts, lift them everywhere.
5. Passing on to each of us a measure of your love, love to make us whole again, as we share your Word.
6. **Bread, blessed and broken for us all, symbol of your love from the grain so tall. Bread, blessed and broken for us all, bread of life you give to us, bread of life for all.**

7. Jesus, you're the one I love; you're the one I know. You're the one who makes me strong, Spirit in my soul.

• **SONG # 4: He is Lord**

He is Lord. He is Lord.
He is risen from the dead
and He is Lord. Every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

• **SONG # 5: WITH ONE VOICE (Manalo)**

1. Take the Word and go out to every land; shine the light of Christ for all to see! May the lives of those we touch sing praise to God above. Let us sing, we'll sing:
2. **With one voice we'll pass the Word along; with one voice, bring justice to the world. And with all the angels we'll spread the goodness of God. With all power and glory the Word of God shall reign.**
3. Take the Word to our neighborhoods and streets; shine the light of Christ for all to see! May we all set out to live in peace and harmony. They will see and sing:
4. Take the Word to the people in despair; shine the light of Christ for all to see! May our actions and our deeds bring comfort to their needs. And they'll know and sing:
5. Take the Word to the nations everywhere; shine the light of Christ for all to see! May the witness of our lives transform the world anew. And we'll shine, we'll shine;

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, August 21

- 4:00 p.m. † Lucille Rugave & Lorie Rosales by Nancy, Paul, & MaryLou
† Florence H. Everett by Dil Hatchett

Sunday, August 22

- 9:00 a.m. Mary Frampton by Joyce
10:45 a.m. Sheryl Preston by Anita Brommer
Pat Denning by Dan Murphy & Dil Hatchett

Monday, August 23

- 8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, August 24

- 8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz

Wednesday, August 25

- 8:00 a.m. † Bernard & Eileen Flood by Flood Family

Thursday, August 26

- 8:00 a.m. Fr. Don Tranel by Daniel Murphy

Friday, August 27

- 8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Richard & Margaret Schmelz

Saturday, August 28

- 4:00 p.m. † Eugene Gray by Bonnie Seibert
† Earlein Stokes by Roberto

Sunday, August 29

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45 a.m. † Rudolf Sertic by Zalac Family
Jason & Family by Blessed Sacrament Parish