

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing
kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their
Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Exodus 16:2-4.12-15

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The whole community of the sons of Israel began to complain against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness and said to them, "Why did we not die at the Lord's hand in the land of Egypt, when we were able to sit down to pans of meat and could eat bread to our heart's content! As it is, you have brought us to this wilderness to starve this whole company to death!"

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now I will rain down bread for you from the heavens. Each day the people are to go out and gather the day's portion; I propose to test them in this way to see whether they will follow my law or not.

"I have heard the complaints of the sons of Israel. Say this to them, 'Between the two evenings you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have bread to your heart's content. Then you will learn that I, the Lord, am your God.'" And so it came about: quails flew up in the evening, and they covered the camp; in the morning there was a coating of dew all round the camp. When the coating of dew lifted, there on the surface of the desert was a thing delicate, powdery, as fine as hoarfrost on the ground. When they saw this, the sons of Israel said to one another, "What is that?" not knowing what it was. "That" said Moses to them "is the bread the Lord gives you to eat."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 77

Response:

The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

1. The things we have heard and understood,
the things our fathers have told us,
we will tell to the next generation:
the glories of the Lord and his might. (R.)
2. He commanded the clouds above
and opened the gates of heaven.
He rained down manna for their food,
and gave them bread from heaven. (R.)
3. Mere men ate the bread of angels.
He sent them abundance of food.
He brought them to his holy land,
to the mountain which his right hand had won. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 4:17.20-24

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

I want to urge you in the name of the Lord, not to go on living the aimless kind of life that pagans live. Now that is hardly the way you have learnt from Christ, unless you failed to hear him properly when you were taught what the truth is in Jesus. You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your mind must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

**I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
no one can come to the Father except through me. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

John 6:24-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered:

"I tell you most solemnly you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal."

Then they said to him, "What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?"

Jesus gave them this answer, "This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent." So they said, "What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

Jesus answered:

"I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven,
it is my Father who gives you the bread

from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Sir," they said "give us that bread always."

Jesus answered:

"I am the bread of life; He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.**

**God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;**

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

For our sake he was crucified under

Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,

and rose again on the third day

in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory

to judge the living and the dead

and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,

the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son is adored

and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and

apostolic Church.

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins**

**and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead**

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray,
and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice,

make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**You have given us, O Lord, bread from
heaven,**

**endowed with all delights and sweetness in
every taste.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord,
those you renew with these heavenly gifts

and, in your never-failing care for them,

make them worthy of eternal redemption.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

5TH AUGUST 2018

Sunday Message

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • Season Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE (JOHN 6:24-35)

Stained glass window in St. Sulpice Church (Fougeres, France)

You might remember that last week we read the famous scene of Jesus feeding the crowd with loaves and fishes. After this, Jesus escapes to the hills for fear of being made a King by the people.

His reappearance at the beginning of today's Gospel causes an immediate question from the crowd, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" They've been looking for him and waiting. But Jesus tells them that their main interest revolves around the signs and works he is performing. He states clearly that they must only work for food that endures to eternal life, not for food that cannot last. Only if they believe in the one who God has sent, will their hunger be truly satisfied.

Despite everything the crowd has witnessed so far as they followed him from shoreline to mountain top, they continue to ask him, "what sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you?" Perhaps they are looking for another miracle, another sign that this man is indeed the Son of God. But Jesus preaches to them again on the theme of bread from heaven. This bread that comes from God is the bread that gives life to the world. If they are hungry or thirsty, then the path to fulfilment and joy is through Jesus Christ. For Jesus states, "I am the bread of life." This phrase from Jesus will recur time and time again in chapter 6 of John's Gospel. The hunger of humanity will be satisfied through belief in Jesus and in the One who sent him. ■

SAY

Father in heaven, you have made us for yourself; our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Fulfil this longing through Jesus, the bread of life, so that we may witness to him who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family. By the power of your Spirit lead us to the heavenly table where we may feast on the vision of your glory forever and ever. Amen.

LEARN

"The Eucharist is the bread that gives strength... It is at once the most eloquent proof of His love and the most powerful means of fostering His love in us. He gives Himself every day so that our hearts as burning coals may set afire the hearts of the faithful."

(St Damien of Molokai)



DO

Reflect on the meaning of the Eucharist for you. When you receive the Body of Christ at Mass, what happens? Are you changed by the experience? Do you feel closer to God and God's family?

REFLECT

A Greek man named Alexander Papaderous founded an Institute of Peace and Understanding on the island of Crete as a result of the many atrocities that took place there during the Second World War. He was convinced that people needed to let go of the hatred the war had unleashed. One day he was giving a lecture and at the end, someone asked him, "What is the meaning of life?" It's such a difficult question to answer but Alexander took a small mirror out of his wallet and said:

I am a fragment of a mirror whose whole design and shape I do not know. Nevertheless, with what I have I can reflect light into the dark places of this world – into the black places in the hearts of men and women – and change some things in some people. Perhaps others

may see and do likewise. This is what I'm about. This is the meaning of my life.

It's a powerful image and for most of us, to answer the question might take some time and reflection. What is the meaning of my life? It's the question on the lips of the crowd that greets Jesus in today's Gospel. These people are lost. They are looking for answers. How should they live their lives? Who should they follow? The answer is clear and unambiguous but the language is new. Jesus is the bread of life. He will nourish them and give them life but first, they must believe. Through Jesus they will find their meaning. Through him they will share his love and charity to their neighbours and family along the way. Our life's meaning becomes intertwined with the life of Christ. ■