

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Stockbridge, Massachusetts
July 25, 2021 – The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

Bread for the World

Today we begin a five-week sojourn into the sixth chapter of the gospel of John, which explores the idea of Jesus as the bread of life. As we did three years ago when these passages arose in the lectionary cycle, we will use this detour from the gospel of Mark as an opportunity to dive into the Eucharist, including an Instructed Eucharist at the 10:00 service on August 15.

It is interesting to note that John does not include in his gospel the institution of the Eucharist; his last supper has only foot washing and his farewell discourse. Some scholars say that John places its origin in this sixth chapter. Certainly the feeding of the five thousand in today's gospel passage provides a great place to begin our study of the power of bread as a metaphor for the gift of Christ.

Welcome to St. Paul's, as we explore together the gift of love that is incarnate in our Lord Jesus.

Music (<i>Hymns are in the printed insert, unless otherwise marked.</i>)		Doug Schmolze, guitar
Prelude:	Prelude in D Minor	– JS Bach
Sequence Hymn:	Take my life and let it be	
After Sermon:	Musette	
Offertory:	Minuet	– JS Bach
Communion:	Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart	
Postlude:	Sarabande	– JS Bach

Collect

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Readings

2 Samuel 11:1-15

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she

came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Psalm 14

- 1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *
All are corrupt and commit abominable acts; there is none who does any good.
- 2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, *
to see if there is any who is wise, if there is one who seeks after God.
- 3 Every one has proved faithless; all alike have turned bad; *
there is none who does good; no, not one.
- 4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *
who eat up my people like bread and do not call upon the LORD?
- 5 See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.
- 6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the LORD is their refuge.
- 7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in

your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 6:1-21

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world."

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

✿ *Altar flowers are given in memory of the Rev. & Mrs. David R. Covell, Jr.* ✿

Join the Corner of Kindness on the Appalachian Trail

Our ministry partners at Christ/Trinity Sheffield have established a great new ministry: reaching out in kindness to hikers along their way on the Appalachian Trail. As Pastor Erik describes it, "it literally involves sitting in the shade, chatting with 10-20 hikers as they pass through, cooking them a hamburger, eating a hamburger, drinking local beverages, and that's it!" We have been invited to by the folks of Trinity Church of Lenox on **Saturday, August 7** when they are staffing the tent. If you would like to try this unique way of being hospitable, contact Amanda Fillio Watroba to volunteer: 413.822.8581 or amandafillio@gmail.com.

Live Concert at the Bandstand - Wednesday, August 4th from 5:30 to 7:15 p.m. at the bandstand behind Town Hall in Great Barrington Doug Schmolze, joined by vocalist Jordan Rose Lee, will present an evening of American Songbook selections for voice and guitar. Songs from various decades by some of the greatest American composers, Gershwin, Berlin, Rogers and Hammerstein, etc. will be featured. There will be a few surprises and a few sing-a-longs. Suitable for families. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy. Weather permitting. Admission free.

Altar Flowers – Open Dates

If you would like to honor or remember a loved one by providing altar flowers, the following Sundays are available: **Aug. 15, Sep. 19, Dec. 5, & Dec. 20.** To sign up, please email office@stpaulsstockbridge.org and tell us the date you'd like to reserve, the wording of the announcement, and whether or not you'd like the office to order the flowers for you (cost is \$60).

Worship Teams

(If you exchange shifts with someone, please notify the Church Office by Thursday morning at office@stpaulsstockbridge.org.)

Today, July 25

Celebrant: The Rev. Jane Tillman
Preacher: The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader: Duncan Pollock
10:00 Usher: Vaunie Gaulty
10:00 Reader: Kendra MacLeod

Next Sunday, August 1

Celebrant: The Rev. Sam Smith
Preacher: The Rev. Sam Smith
8:00 Reader: TBA
10:00 Usher: Peter Dillon
10:00 Reader: Darryl Lafferty

Parish Prayer List

- People we pray for on Sundays: **Cecilia, Cynthia, Charles, Susan, Patrick, Tanja, Will, John, Danielle**
- Long-term prayer list: **Piers, Katrina, Khali, George, David, Doug, Barbara, ZsuZsa, Tom, Rich, Ronnie, John, George, Christy, Michael, Karen**
- **Prayers for the repose of the soul of Charlie Lafferty**
- **Prayers for the repose of the soul of Thelma Hover**
- Our partners at Grace Church, Great Barrington and their new priest Tina Rathbone; Christ Trinity Episcopal-Lutheran, Sheffield and their priest Erik; the Austen Riggs community and the Riverbrook Residence; victims of violence, abuse, persecution and disaster at home and abroad; those impacted by the pandemic
- Outreach Ministries of the Week: **Gideon's Garden and Construct**
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Christ Trinity Church, Sheffield**
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **The Scottish Episcopal Church**
- Birthdays: **Tracy Weston** (25th) and **Joel Levi** (31st)