

**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**Stockbridge, Massachusetts**  
**August 1, 2021 – The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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**The Bread of Life**

As we continue to explore the Eucharist, our most central ritual, we turn this morning to considering the origins of our practice. The earliest written account of a Christian *eucharistia* (Greek for “thanksgiving”) is found in the first letter to the Corinthians (11:17-34). Paul refers to “the Lord’s Supper,” suggesting it is an already established ritual.

This ritual may have its origin in a pagan context, where dinners to memorialize the dead were common. Likewise, Jewish ritual meal practice is a clear antecedent. Understanding the origins of our ritual is helpful, but perhaps even more important is truly understanding what it means to us today, and how we might find renewed meaning in the living bread that is Jesus Christ.

Welcome to St. Paul’s as we consider the beginnings of this practice, the ways it has changed throughout the history of Christianity, and what it might mean for us now and in the future.

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<b>Music</b> ( <i>Hymns are in the printed insert, unless otherwise marked.</i> )	Doug Schmolze, guitar
Prelude:	Maria – Francisco Tarrega
Sequence Hymn:	I come with joy to meet my Lord
After Sermon:	El Testamento de Amelia - Catalan Folk Melody
Offertory:	Rumores de la Caleta – Isaac Albenez
Communion:	O love, how deep, how broad, how high
Postlude:	Fantasia – Alonso Mudarra

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**Collect**

Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; 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 11:26-12:13a**

When the wife of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son.

But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD, and the LORD sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, “There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man’s lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him.” Then David’s anger was greatly kindled against

the man. He said to Nathan, "As the LORD lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the LORD, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the LORD: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."

### **Psalm 51:1-13**

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions, \*  
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned \*  
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak \*  
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

### **Ephesians 4:1-16**

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

### **John 6:24-35**

The next day, when the people who remained after the feeding of the five thousand saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal." Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" Then Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

## 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](mailto: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).

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## Worship Teams

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

### Today, August 1

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

### Next Sunday, August 8

Celebrant: The Rev. Sam Smith  
Preacher: The Rev. Jane Tillman  
8:00 Reader: TBA  
10:00 Usher: Don Temples  
10:00 Reader: Diana French

## 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**
- 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: **Lee Food Pantry and Berkshire Community Diaper Project**
- Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: **Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls**
- Anglican Cycle of Prayer: **Church of the Province of South East Asia**
- Birthdays: **Dan Weston** (1st), **Cooper Maloney** (2nd), **Donnice Stanley** (4th), **Bernadette Brusco** (5th), and **Pam Drumm** (7th)
- Anniversaries: **Dan & Tracy Weston** (5th) and **Chris & Tracy Johnson** (7th)