

**PENTECOST 11 (2018)**  
**John 6**

**The eyes of all look to you, O Lord; you give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing. Amen!**

**Our manna, our Bread of Life for today:**

**John 6:22–35** 22 On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. 23 Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. 24 So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

25 When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 26 Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27 Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will GIVE TO YOU. For on him God the Father has set his seal.**” 28 **Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?”** 29 **Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”** 30 So they said to him, “Then what sign do you do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? 31 Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” 32 Jesus then said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34 They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

In the Name of Jesus.

‘What-in-the-world?!’ ‘Well NOW what? – with a SMILE on your face and the lightest, happiest heart!’ ‘What in the world’ Jesus is, and did, and brings to us each day: Life. Whhuuuutt?

That’s your pastor’s translation for the word ‘manna.’ The Exodus reading gave us ‘What is it?’

The Hebrews have been great pun-makers from biblical times. We Gentiles pronounce things with an obvious accent. Faith can stand such corrections!

Can a boy from Wisconsin learn the language in Louisiana?

I remember being gently schooled by brother Charlie—decades ago now!—how to pronounce the city down the river. Coming from up North, I called it ‘New Or-LEENS.’ With patience and love, Charlie explained: If three syllable, New OR-lens. Or, FOUR syllables: New OR-lee-uns. Or, TWO syllables: Naw-lins!

I also cherish brother Marvin correcting my ‘PEA-CANS’ to the homey ‘pe-CAHNS!’

Let’s smooth out our pronunciation, my dear ones. Manna, among the Israelites, sounded more like ‘MAH-na.’ MAH, sounds like the Hebrew ‘WHAT?’ And you add ‘na’ to words to give ‘em some oomph! ‘Man-na!’ They said when this dew went up and the flakes were left, bread from heaven, for each day of their wandering, until the Promised Land. ‘What-in-the-world; what-now; HEY; wow; WHAT?’ Manna.

Yes, when Moses was around. But: Mah-na; wut—WHAT?!, when Heaven’s seal of approval came in our flesh!

Moses worked a sign; Jesus corrects that in John 6: ‘Moses done gave you nuthin’! HE was just the go-between. I am the Bread of Life. I am NOT...MOSES!’

Saint Paul, writing to the Galatians, says that Moses was a go-between, a mediator. When there is more than ONE party to a contract, it’s normal to have a go-between: closing attorney in real estate, etc. But God is ONE, wrote Paul. Jesus is NOT Moses. He is NOT—not really!—a go-between mediator. Because in the New Testament, there is only ONE PARTY to the contract between God and man: The Man Who IS God, and yet more Man than WE can do right!

Who gave Himself, His Flesh, for the Life of the World. And all the work left for us now is to eat of that Flesh; Life, springing from the Good News that HE came among us and finished the Father's task; and now, He has risen and sends manna from Heaven: Himself—yes, Himself! But EVERY OTHER 'WHAT-NOW' that we find on this earth e-v-e-r-y day! Hallelujah!

Somewhere Dr. Luther wrote 'I've given up trying to SCOLD myself into being good!' Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there! A work of God that doesn't even SMACK of the scold Moses!

'And on the EIGHTH day, God created the Kindergarten teacher!' (That's somewhere in MY version of the Bible!)

Somewhere along the line, going back and forth with the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, the Kindergarten teacher I'm sweet on led them to the Lord's word that the work of God is that we BELIEVE in Him, in the One Heaven has sent. And, despite the Lord's warning, the child dropped a pearl. 'Yes, Mrs. Laura! And we can't even to THAT right!'

Mah-na! What-in-the-world! Work that nothing but being given to by Mr. Mah-na, Mr. What-is-THIS! They called Him 'Sir' in the Gospel reading. Also proper to call Him our Lord, or our Bread of Life.

The only point of being a Lutheran is to leave the Word of God un-improved by us. The text ACTUALLY says, ‘WORK—NOT for food that perishes!’ Now, THAT is Jesus’ proper office, the reason He was given for the world. The world already had Moses’ command to work!

‘Six days you shall work; but the seventh will be a day of Rest from the Lord!’ Moses; from back when even Art was young.

‘NOW is the day of rest! Work—but MY work begins and ends with ‘what-in-the-world-now?????’ Jesus; from Art’s teenage years.

My dear ones: I keep having this back-and-forth with my feelings-doctor over the good and bad of the word relationship. Do you and I have a ‘relationship’ with the Lord. OK—sure, IF what we mean by that, is that there is NO DISTANCE WHATSOEVER between Heaven and Earth, Man and God, sinner and the Holy Spirit!

What scares me is the way the world uses the word: as this middle thing, this mediator between God and men, or one man and the next, a man and his wife; like the Law; like the ark of the covenant, with its blood-spattered lid.

Six days shall you work! Until the end, Moses has his say. And we should WORK, my friends! Work...is...GOOD! For us, for others, to please God even, if work is done in faith!

But now, our REST has come! And so every day, every work, is a given-to-work, for the heaven-hungry, for the Jesus-fed, for the disciple.

Are you not just sick and tired of being less the disciple than you know you should be? Use the Moses-yardstick OR the Jesus-sized one!

A portion of our daily bread today, from Psalm 145:

**145** A SONG OF PRAISE. OF DAVID.

*<sup>1</sup> I will extol you, my God and King,  
and bless your name forever and ever.*

WITHOUT FAIL, y'all and me, right? Come what may?  
Some days I think every Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist and  
atheist is a better Christian than I am! Because I'm only  
COMFORTABLE judging my standing with heaven based  
on the Law, Moses, works.

<sup>2</sup> Every day I will bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised,  
and his greatness is unsearchable.

<sup>4</sup> One generation shall commend your works to another,  
and shall declare your mighty acts.

<sup>5</sup> On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

<sup>6</sup> They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds,

- and I will declare your greatness.
- <sup>7</sup> They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
- <sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.
- <sup>10</sup> All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
and all your saints shall bless you!
- <sup>11</sup> They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom  
and tell of your power,
- <sup>12</sup> to make known to the children of man your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
- <sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

Soooo..... No worries evident in US, right, my dear ones? God is in His heaven and all is right with the world, right? Sure glad to have left behind mumbling and grumbling and the rehearsing of what others fail to put into their relationship with ME!

- The LORD is faithful in all his words  
and kind in all his works.
- <sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who are falling  
and raises up all who are bowed down.
- <sup>15</sup> The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.
- <sup>16</sup> You open your hand;  
you satisfy the desire of every living thing.
- <sup>17</sup> The LORD is righteous in all his ways

and kind in all his works.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desire of those who fear him;  
he also hears their cry and saves them.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD preserves all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

<sup>21</sup> *My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD,  
and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever.*

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This Psalm is our Psalm; so says the Bread of Life. For, as it teaches us to sing and pray and rejoice—in a word, BELIEVE!—sing, pray, rejoice, live:

<sup>8</sup> *The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*

<sup>9</sup> *The LORD is good to all,  
and his mercy is over all that he has made.*

Let us SCOLD each other into THAT FAITH, my dear ones!  
THERE is a correction even sinners like US can take!

It hurts to be corrected; it can also be daunting to be the corrector. Six days shall you work! Until the end, tasks and work

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Ps 145:title–146:1). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.



is going to get in the way of what we want to do! And there can be a place for us to correct one another with the Law!

But that's not ALL! From heaven, we have bread, food and drink; comfort, for each hurting soul: MAH-na! RIGHT WHERE we are ready to throw up our hands in a scold of 'WHAT-Now?!!!', Heaven gives us another 'Mah-Na! NOW, see what I have for you, what GOD has for YOU! The Bread of Life has come! Away with all your guilt and sadness, your fear, your anxious trigger-finger set on 'What work must I DO to be doing the work of God?!'

Do you hear the despair in that question? Oh, if only we poor failing men could be given a work from heaven for us to do that we could actually do, without a shade of regret after.

There is! Believe what is not left to you to believe: The Creator has been created now; God's Pledge, His Word, has been made flesh and has laid that Flesh down for the world—that means you; The Spirit comes to you and me FOR CERTAIN in ways that even your poor pastor can deliver!

I forgive you all your sins. Not up to you to settle that score.

I baptize you at Christ's behest.

The Body of Christ for you; the Blood of Christ for you.  
And you will never perish. And He will raise you up on the Last  
Day.

Peace to you! God in peace! In the Name of Jesus! Amen.