

**PENTECOST 12 (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 6:35–51** 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. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” Jesus answered them, “Do not grumble among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the Prophets, ‘And they will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. *Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.*”

In the Name of Jesus.

“Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

There was nothing wrong with the manna; it’s just that it appeared on the ground with instructions from Moses! Then, in the wilderness, they died. The Law came through Moses! Grace and truth came through Jesus Christ! And so, This is Bread, He is Bread, His Flesh is Bread that comes down from heaven that a man may eat and not die!

And yet: ‘I will raise up the one who eats This Bread; raise him up on at the Last Day.’ Praise the Lord! This LIFE, this ‘raising up’ CANNOT have ANYTHING to do with EXTENDING, PROLONGING, DRAGGING OUT a wilderness of wandering to The Promised Land. No; when Jesus speaks of Life He speaks of God; and when He speaks of God He speaks of His flesh; and when He gives His Flesh, He gives His Flesh to raise just ‘whoever;’ He gives His Flesh for the life of the world.

Moses spoke to children of God—but they were naughty children; only glad for ‘The Ancient of Days’—not YOU, Art!—those children were only glad for the ‘Old Grampa Above’ to show up like all naughty children who are glad to have grandparents and aunts and uncles and such FOR THE GOODIES THEY DELIVER! Often NEED to deliver, or there’s gonna be grumbling!

They grumbled about Moses—really, God!—when they had no bread to eat. All they had was GOD with them! And the Jews grumbled like naughty children, when they had GOD with them in the Flesh! For their COMFORT AND JOY, they even knew where He grew up, His parents and so on. But they still demanded goodies, something—though they knew not WHAT; something higher, better, loftier, more God-ish! Do a sign! Give us goodies! Speak OUR language! Be relevant, preacher!

Oh, He GAVE, all right! A SIGN which even raises up dead you and dead me—naughty us! A WORD, a DEED, that comes so little and weak and close, that there's no one in the world excluded from what HE has done!

Signs and wonders abound in our midst, my dear Lutherans!

At His Word, the Bread IS His Body that was crucified and is now ascended on high. With a Word, the cup IS the communion of His Blood, that WAS shed, but now is not because He has risen from the dead. Bratty children cannot be attracted to this wonder. Which is why the Lord does NOT condition His giving, His Love, His Flesh, His Holy Communion, on OUR asking, OUR believing, OUR sincerity. He gives now as He gave Himself once-for-all: which is, for all!

Of course, when Jesus speaks of His Flesh as the Life for the world, He in no way limits His giving to the One Mystery of the Sacrament of the Altar. His giving flows out and over and washes back over the uncontainable Givings that He IS! Holy Baptism, the Word of Pardon, the heralding of the Good News that the Lamb of God has come and taken away the sins of the world! Heaven's gate torn off the hinges when He was made flesh, so that the Father above sees no barrier between heaven and earth, God and man, the Holy One and what we are at heart!

When ANY of this BANQUET turns our desperate GAMBLE of prayer into the bold confidence of a child to his Father, the Spirit of Jesus is feeding!

And when we are so well nourished, that what there is about the NEXT MAN that gives our FLESH a BAD NAME cannot extinguish our attachment, our intercession, our love, it's as if the Last Day is already

HERE! For the dead cannot work such works; only those the Living Bread raises from their grumblings.

FEAST, my dear ones! Saints of God, DINE on God Himself, along with His GIFTS!

For what Moses could only scold, Jesus bore: our flesh. And the journey to the Promised Land is not sustained, is not completed by the six days we work; but by the seventh day which is REST. When God-in-the-Flesh gives, gives Himself!, we're at the end of journey even while we're still on it! For we have moved from the world to heaven, from death to life, from sin to sin taken away.

You must SEE what our Flesh-Brother has GIVEN US!

Right when/where we are ready to take the next man in our mouth and chew up and spit out—you know it!—

Right then/there, the Living Bread that fills our mouths and gives us life that knows no end: He even makes of you and me Living Bread for the next man to eat and then live.

Despite what curses pour from their mouths they hear nothing but blessing. Though they turn the LIFE Christ gives them into a death-match of pointing out sins, heaven hears, THEY hear nothing but our prayer on their behalf: the world!

OPEN Your hand, O Lord! Satisfy the desire of every living thing: for Life that leaves all death behind. We say to You, that the eyes of ALL,

the eyes of the WORLD, are looking to You, here and now! GIVE us your Living Bread at the most fitting time: now, in the Name of Jesus! Amen!