ew

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 1, 2021**

**WELCOME & INSTRUCTION**

*Participants are invited to respond with the text in* **bold type.**

**ORDER OF CONFESSION**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance,

let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for the examination of conscience.*

God, our provider,

**help us.**

**It is hard to believe there is enough to share.**

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways**

**of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding**

**rather than trusting in you.**

**We take offense at your teachings and your ways.**

**Turn us again to you.**

**Where else can we turn?**

**Share with us the words of eternal life**

**and feed us for life in the world.**

**Amen.**

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, the manna from heaven,

you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, the worker of miracles,

there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, ☩ the bread of life,

you are shown God’s mercy:

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**Amen.**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### FIRST READING| Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

A food crisis becomes a faith crisis for the Israelites in the wilderness. The hungry people forget God’s saving work in the exodus, and they wish for the food they had in Egypt. Nevertheless, God miraculously meets their needs, with manna for bread and quail for meat.

2The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. 3The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

  4Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

  9Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’ ” 10And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. 11The Lord spoke to Moses and said, 12“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’ ”

  13In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. 14When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. 15When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 78:23-29

God rained down manna from heaven; so mortals ate the bread of angels. (Ps. 78:24, 25)

23So God commanded the clouds above

  and opened the doors of heaven,

**24raining down manna upon them to eat**

**and giving them grain from heaven.**

 25So mortals ate the bread of angels;

  God provided for them food enough.

**26The Lord caused the east wind to blow in the heavens**

**and powerfully led out the south wind,**

 27raining down flesh upon them like dust

  and flying birds like the sand of the seas,

**28letting them fall in the midst of the camp**

**and round about the dwellings.**

 29So the people ate and were well filled,

  for God gave them what they craved.

### Gospel: John 6:24-35

Many of the five thousand people Jesus fed in the wilderness continued to follow him throughout the countryside. Jesus challenges them to consider the real nature of their quest.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

24When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were [beside the sea,] they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

  25When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” 26Jesus 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. 27Do 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.” 28Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” 29Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” 30So 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? 31Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ” 32Then 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. 33For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” 34They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

  35Jesus 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE|**

**BREAKOUT QUESTIONS**

* In what ways to you try to stay mindful of God’s abundance?
* When does faith fill you up?

### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You call your church to be the body of Christ. Awaken all the baptized to the gifts you provide for carrying out the work of ministry. Where the church is divided, knit us together and restore the unity of the faith. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You command the clouds above and cause the wind to blow in the heavens. Watch over deserts and wilderness places. Regenerate rainforests, defend species at risk of extinction, and strengthen the work of conservation organizations. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You summon leaders to respond to the needs of your people. Instill those who govern with patience when confronted with grievances and perseverance in seeking what promotes the well-being of the community. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You draw near to those who cry out for help. Feed those who are hungry, reassure those who are despairing, and accompany those who are imprisoned. Rain down the true bread from heaven that gives life to the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You receive all who come seeking a sign of grace. Make this congregation a place of hospitality for those accustomed to rejection. To those who have felt excluded here or elsewhere, prepare us to welcome them in the name of Christ. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You provide food that endures for eternal life. Sustain us each day with the bread of life until we are gathered with all the saints and feast together at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our sins,**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us;**

**save us from the time of trial,**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,** **the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Share your stories with us!** We want to know what makes this community important to you. Share with us your stories and experiences God’s work in your life through the ministry and people of St. Luke’s. Be on the lookout in the newsletter for a link to submit stories we can share in the newsletter or in person. You can also send a story to [churchontheavenue@gmail.com](mailto:churchontheavenue@gmail.com). Use “Stories of Pentecost” for the subject line.

**If you have prayers of concern or thanksgiving to share,** please offer them up through the weekly newsletter so that we join you in care and in gratitude.

**Thank you** for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry during this strange and difficult time! You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church’s giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at <http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org.>

**BENEDICTION**

God is with you! **And also with you!**

May God bless you and keep you.

May God’s face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with favor and give you peace,

in the name of the Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**