

I AM the Bread of Life

**Midweek Lenten Service
Wednesday, March 4, 2020**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
215 N. Warren Street,
Orwigsburg, PA
570-366-2316
www.stpauls-orwigsburg.org**

Let us now refrain from conversation, quiet ourselves, and welcome the Holy Spirit into our midst.

PRELUDE

HYMN

“Christ, the Life of All the Living”

#339

GREETING

We gather in the name of the Father, and of the (†) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

RESPONSIVE READING

Show us your mercy, O God,

and grant us your salvation.

Clothe your ministers with righteousness.

Let your people sing with joy.

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

for only in you can we live in safety.

Lord, keep this nation under your care,

and guide in the way of justice and truth.

Let your way be known upon earth;

your saving health among all nations.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten,

nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,

and sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

A Reading from Exodus

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.

(Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15)

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78:23-29 (Responsively)

²³So [God] commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven.

²⁴**He rained down manna upon them to eat
and gave them grain from heaven.**

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
he provided for them food enough.

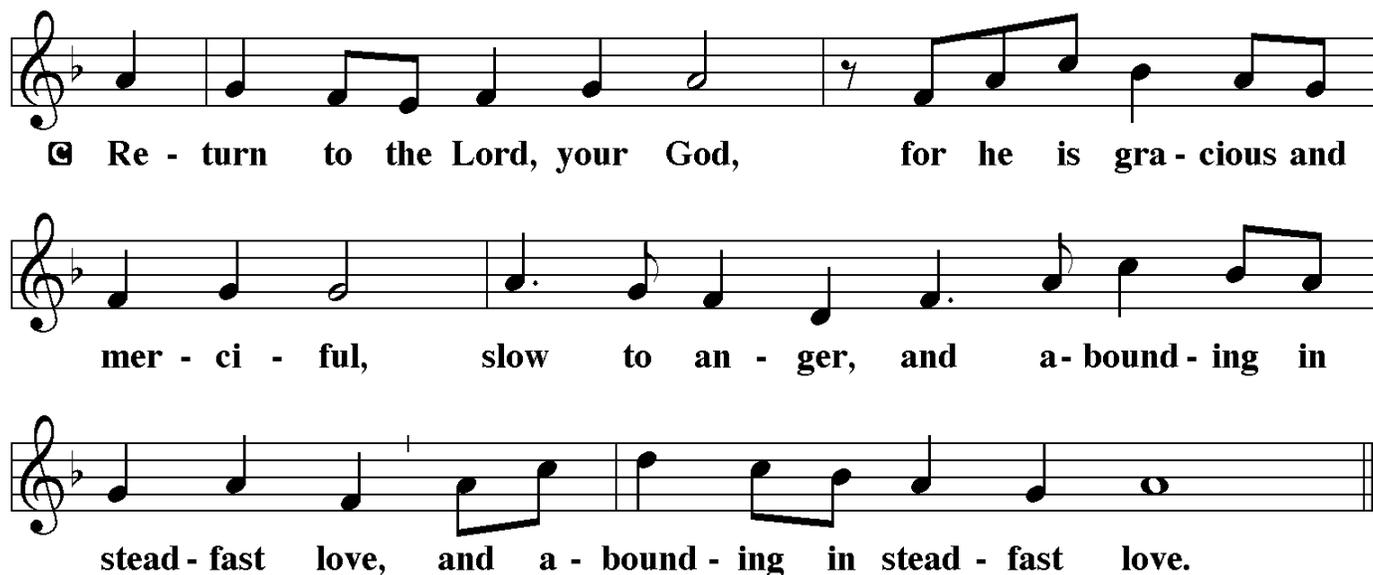
26He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and led out the south wind by his might.

27He rained down flesh upon them like dust
and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

28He let it fall in the midst of their camp
and round about their dwellings.

29So they ate and were well filled,
for he gave them what they craved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 6:24-35

The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

24So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for 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, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. **27**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. **28**Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform 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, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? **31**Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to

eat.”³² 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.³³ For the bread of God is that which 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 will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

#515

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary,

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Holy God, you give gifts and talents to every member of the church. Strengthen all your children and bring them to a full understanding and maturity in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Creator God, our complex and wonderful world is a sure sign of your abundance and care. Provide for every creature, and rain down the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Peaceful God, draw the nations of the world to harmony and mutual understanding. Bind all of humanity in the unity of love and peace that comes through the Spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we pray for those who are hungry, homeless, and who have lost family or friends. We also pray for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially...*). Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Merciful God, you have brought us all together in this time and place. Bless this congregation, and draw us into closer communion with you, each other, and our community. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Infinite God, we praise you for the lives of those who have died in Christ. Strengthen us in faith, for we have all received the food that endures to eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

We give thanks to you heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked one may have no power over us. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, bless us, defend us from all evil, and (✠) bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.

HYMN

“Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed”

#337

DEPART IN PEACE

POSTLUDE