

## Sermon for Pentecost 11b

John 6:35-51

I have been thinking about food lately. Not because I am not getting enough. I eat pretty good. It is because our gospel lessons have planted the idea of food in my mind. We have heard the account of the feeding of 5,000 with 5 loaves and two fish. Last Sunday we heard the account of that crowd finding Jesus in Capernaum and rebuking them for desiring that Jesus fill their bellies again. Not only that my travels over the last couple weeks have taken me through the corn and bean fields across our land. These fields like we have around here stretch all the way into Northwest Ohio to the east, and well into S Dakota to the west. That is a lot of corn and beans. And that does not even include the wheat that is grown west of here. Now the sweet corn is coming and oh how we enjoy that. Nothing better!

Then I thought about some the suppers and dinners mom cooked up growing up. Maybe you have done the same. Wondering it would be nice to go back to that time and enjoy one more supper of mom's home cooking. Then I wonder how Adam and Eve felt as they were expelled from the garden. Memories of the all the fruit trees and wonderful flavor and taste of that garden of Eden food. The sweet corn is great around here, but the sweet corn had to be out of this world in the Garden of Eden. Anyway, Adam and Eve ruined it all. When they were not satisfied with all that God had provided. God and

given them everything and more, yet they wanted more. Thus, Satan tempted them to eat from the tree of the forbidden fruit. I wonder if Adam or Eve spent the next 900 years regretting day. Now they have spent every day working for their food – tilling, weeding, planting, weeding, harvesting, grinding, baking, toiling under the hot sun when soil and weather that seemed uncooperative at times. They had to remember how good they had it, with abundant, sweet, succulent fruit. Oh, if we could have a do over! To make right everything we messed up! Sin had made that impossible.

Maybe you have those kinds of memories. Back to childhood. Back mom's home cooking. A place to where you messed up and get another chance. Here is the offer. Come. I will take you there. And you will not even believe how good it is.

That is Jesus' offer today in our gospel. Jesus says, "I have food for you that will never make you hunger or thirst again." You will have every need satisfied just as it was in the beginning in the Garden of Eden. I have come to give it to you today. And to take you to this food on the last day. To take you back home, not to your birthplace, but to paradise. Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden of Eden, paradise and into the wilderness. Jesus has come to give you this food not just help you tolerate this life but restore what had been lost. And then on the last day take us to paradise where we will never be thrown out again. This is why God the Father sent Jesus. To give life to the world. To give us the bread we need to sustain our

life with our Savior. And it is all by God's grace. You do not need to earn it or even work for it. If anyone eats of this bread they will live forever.

Sounds like a good deal. Right? Here is what the Jews said to Jesus. "You cannot do that. We know where you came from. You came from Nazareth, not Heaven. Mary and Joseph are your parents." You in this world with us. You are writing checks that you cannot cash.

Here is the thing, Jesus could do that, and He did that. His body did write the check to pay the debt of our sins on the cross. He gives life to the world because He takes the sin of the whole world on Himself. We see it in His resurrection. It is a resurrect from the dead He gives to you and to me. Jesus says, "And I will them up on the last day." I am the bread of life. With Jesus you have life.

Satan – other bread. Tasting what is forbidden. The things of this world that bring only temporary pleasure. Acting like everyone else. All this leads to futility. Running like a hamster on the wheel and getting nowhere. Trying to walk up on a down escalator.

But that is not what St. Paul teaches us. That is not who you are. That is not baptize life you live in where you died, sins and all with Jesus, and rose with Jesus to the new life in Him, where God the Father has made you, His child. Where the HS calls us to the One true faith and proclaims to us the forgiveness of sins.

That is not what learned here. The Forgiveness of sins relieves you of the burdened conscience that sins lay on us. In forgiveness we receive the peace of Jesus that passes all understanding.

Do not allow Satan to fool you. That man from Nazareth is more than a man. The Water of Baptism is not just plain water, but when combined with God's Word is life giving water, that wells up to eternal life. The bread and wine of the altar to reminds us that this man from Nazareth did indeed come down from heaven to win for us the God's promise of forgiveness and eternal life. This, this word, this Jesus is exactly what you need. It is what we all need. It is food for you and me that has come down from heaven. It is food from the Mountain of God, to strengthen us, sustain us, to soften hard hearts. Enlighten dark minds with to the light of Christ Jesus, to open deaf ears to the comforting promise of God in His Son Jesus Christ.

This food is here for you and for me. Food from our true home where Christ has gone to prepare for us when he returns to raise us up on the last day. Then the real feast will begin. The feast that has no end. The marriage feast of the Lamb, and our Lord desires to have you there.

Repeat the opening verses.

Come, eat, and live in Christ our Savior.