

**SUNDAY GOSPEL  
BIBLE SHARING**



**Wednesday July 31 for the 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**OPENING PRAYER: Lord God, you provided food from heaven for the grumbling Israelites and you give us Jesus to nourish our souls. May our sharing of your Word today bless us and nourish our relationship with you and each other. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

- In the words of Saint Benedict, “Listen with the ears of your heart.”
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today’s passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

**READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN**

**John 6:24-35**

**The Bread of Life Discourse.**

**22\* The next day, the crowd that remained across the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not gone along with his disciples in the boat, but only his disciples had left.**

**23\* Other boats came from Tiberias near the place where they had eaten the bread when the Lord gave thanks.**

**24 When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.**

**25 And when they found him across the sea they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”**

**26** Jesus answered them and said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

**27** Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life,\* which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.”<sup>l</sup>

**28** So they said to him, “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?”

**29** Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent.”

**30** So they said to him, “What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do?<sup>m</sup>

**31**<sup>\*</sup> Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written:<sup>n</sup>

‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”

**32** So Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven.<sup>o</sup>

**33** For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

**34**<sup>p</sup> So they said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

**35**<sup>\*</sup> Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.<sup>q</sup>

**36** But I told you that although you have seen [me], you do not believe.<sup>r</sup>

## Notes

\* [6:20] It is I: literally, “I am.” See also notes on Jn 4:26 and Mk 6:50.

\* [6:22–71] Discourse on the bread of life; replacement of the manna. Jn 6:22–34 serve as an introduction, Jn 6:35–59 constitute the discourse proper, Jn 6:60–71 portray the reaction of the disciples and Peter’s confession.

\* **[6:23]** Possibly a later interpolation, to explain how the crowd got to Capernaum.

\* **[6:27]** The food that endures for eternal life: cf. **Jn 4:14**, on water “springing up to eternal life.”

\* **[6:31]** Bread from heaven: cf. **Ex 16:4, 15, 32–34** and the notes there; **Ps 78:24**. The manna, thought to have been hidden by Jeremiah (**2 Mc 2:5–8**), was expected to reappear miraculously at Passover, in the last days.

\* **[6:35–59]** Up to **Jn 6:50** “bread of life” is a figure for God’s revelation in Jesus; in **Jn 6:51–58**, the eucharistic theme comes to the fore. There may thus be a break between **Jn 6:50–51**.

## **QUESTIONS FOR SHARING**

1. What hungers and thirsts have you not yet surrendered to Jesus?
2. What is one thing Jesus is saying to us in this Sunday’s gospel about how a disciple should speak or act? And what do you need to do or change to be a better disciple?

## **Commentary**

This scene in today’s Gospel follows immediately after the multiplication of the loaves (last Sunday’s Gospel). Jesus had withdrawn to a quiet place with his disciples because the people wanted to make him king. But the crowd went after him. Jesus tells them that they are following him because he filled their bellies with perishable food. He then tells them to seek after food that “endures for eternal life”, a reference to the Eucharist. When the crowd asks: “What can we do to accomplish the works of God?” Jesus tells them that they must believe in him. Then the people ask Jesus for a sign which shows how slow they are to believe. After all, they had witnessed Jesus heal the sick and feed thousands with a few loaves. Then the crowds refer back to the manna which Moses gave their ancestors, Jesus says that it was not

Moses who gave the bread, but his Father. Then Jesus says that he is bread from heaven. John wants his contemporaries to see Jesus as heavenly food that feeds their deepest spiritual needs.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Parish Hall and Zoom  
Wednesday, July 31 6:30 – 7:30pm  
Weekly on Wednesday  
Zoom Meeting

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting  
Time: July 31, 2024 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj\\_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZolduisqDosE923wHRoszXqNBSkCL57ORPg/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGhpjorHtKTthCORpx5Goj4d-jwpiFdj_oPzwjNMS9AeDvnGMBxOZFTRY)

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618  
Passcode: 280607