

# SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



## Wednesday August 7 for the 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**OPENING PRAYER:** Blessed are you, O God, who has given us the bread of your Word to nourish our minds and hearts, and the bread of your Eucharist to nourish our souls. Be with us as we break open your Word. May your Spirit enlighten our minds, soften our stony hearts and help us not only to be hearers of your Word, but also doers of your Word. 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 6:41-51

41 The Jews murmured about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven,”

42 and they said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”<sup>v</sup>

43 Jesus answered and said to them, “Stop murmuring<sup>z</sup> among yourselves.<sup>w</sup>

44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day.

45 It is written in the prophets:

‘They shall all be taught by God.’

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.<sup>x</sup>

46 Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father.<sup>y</sup>

47 Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

48 I am the bread of life.

49 Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died;<sup>z</sup>

50 this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”<sup>a</sup>

## Notes

\* [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.

\* [6:43] Murmuring: the word may reflect the Greek of Ex 16:2, 7–8.

\* [6:54–58] Eats: the verb used in these verses is not the classical Greek verb used of human eating, but that of animal eating: “munch,” “gnaw.” This may be part of John’s emphasis on the reality of the flesh and blood of Jesus (cf. Jn 6:55), but the same verb eventually became the ordinary verb in Greek meaning “eat.”

## QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. In the Gospel, the Jews are “*murmuring*”. What is a “*murmuring*” or self-talk in your head that prevents your heart from fully embracing Jesus?
2. In what ways do you give your “*flesh for the life of*” others – the world?
3. 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

Last week's Gospel ended with Jesus saying: "I am the Bread of Life come down from heaven." This week's Gospel opens with the people's response to Jesus' claim. Just like their ancestors in the desert, they engage in murmuring. They reason, "How could this man be from heaven when we know his parents?"

Ironies abound in the fourth Gospel and John 6 is no exception. As we saw in last week's Gospel, there was irony in the fact that the people were seeking Jesus but four

did not want to follow him. They called him Rabbi, but they were not willing to be taught by him. They clamored after bread, but they did not want to be filled or fed by him.

Perhaps the saddest irony of all is the fact of the full-bellied crowds, staring at their toothpicks, idly asking Jesus for some sign that would validate his claims (to be that Bread of Life) and then dismissing both Jesus and his teaching because they thought they knew him. Even the sign of the loaves and their fully-satisfied physical hunger wasn't sufficient to quell their murmuring. We know who he is, they reasoned, so how can he claim to have come down from heaven?!

In his response, Jesus states that no one can believe in him unless drawn by the Father. Being drawn to Jesus by God means allowing the gift of faith within oneself to grow and to respond to the One who gave it. Those who resist coming to faith in Jesus are in effect refusing the promptings of God. Jesus stresses his unique relationship with the Father. When Jesus speaks of himself as "bread from heaven," he is not only speaking about the Eucharist but also the bread of his teaching. Jesus is the wisdom and revelation of God in their midst. If they open their hearts to him, they will have the experience of "being taught by God."

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, Aug 7 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: Aug 7, 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