

SUNDAY GOSPEL BIBLE SHARING



Wednesday August 14 for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: *God, source of life, you have gifted us with the Bread of Life, your Son, Jesus Christ. May Lady Wisdom advance our understanding and appreciation of this wonderful gift. And may we, like Jesus, grow in our willingness and ability to share our lives with others, thus becoming bread for a hungry world. 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 6:51-58

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.”^a

52 The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?”

53 Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

54 Whoever eats* my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.

55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

57 Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.^b

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

Notes

* [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.

* [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. How would you go about explaining the presence of Christ in the bread and wine to someone who has no belief about this reality?
2. Have you ever lost appreciation for the Eucharist and then rediscovered its giftedness? If so, share that story. If you have not lost your appreciation for the Eucharist, how have you grown in your appreciation for it over the years? If raised a non-Catholic, what helped you to come to believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist?
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

In this latter part of his Bread of Life discourse, Jesus states that he is bread from heaven and those desiring eternal life must “eat his Flesh and drink his Blood.”

In other words, they must participate in the Eucharist. In the previous section of this discourse, bread meant teaching and wisdom; in today’s Gospel, it is to be understood in a Eucharistic and sacramental sense. Quarreling among themselves, the people ask, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” Given their background, theirs is a valid objection. To eat the flesh of another was and is a repulsive idea. Drinking blood was and is equally shocking and forbidden by law (Gen 9:4, Lev 3:7).

Jesus intends his eating and drinking to be understood in a *Eucharistic* sense—in a way that baffles the human mind. We Catholics believe that when we partake of the host and drink from the cup at Mass, we are receiving into our being the very life of Jesus, the One who became flesh 2,000 years ago, who offered himself as a sacrificial Lamb on the hill of Calvary, and who was raised from the dead.

To make sure his listeners understand what he is saying, Jesus repeats himself *four* times. It is not enough just to partake of Jesus in and through his teaching; we must also partake of him in a sacramental, Eucharistic sense. In doing so, we experience *here and now* a taste of eternal life and a pledge of future glory.

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 14 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 14, 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

Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85136740699?pwd=Q2pXLzdzZFdNNU1NajVpeEtKUohJQTo9>

Meeting ID: 811 6265 5618

Passcode: 280607