

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. W., Barrie, On L4N 7S1 (705) 721-9528 www.stmargaretbarrie.ca

Email: stmarg@rogers.com

Fax: (705) 721-9455



13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 22, 2021

10:00 a.m. Service

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August 22nd, 2021

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

PROCESSIONAL: *Lord I Life Your Name on High*

#111 SB

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips,
All: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Celebrant: O God, make speed to save us.
All: O Lord, make haste to help us.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. John 6:68

VENITE

**All: Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God,
and a great king above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth,
and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee,
and kneel before the Lord our maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Amen.

PSALM 95.1-7

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors--Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor--lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

"Now therefore revere the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore, we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

PSALM: 34:15-22

All: The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.

The face of the LORD is against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears, and rescues them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD rescues them from them all.

He keeps all their bones; not one of them will be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness.

As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO JOHN

People: Glory to You Lord Jesus Christ

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you?"

Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.

And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him.

So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

SERMON: Amy Pauley

Jesus is the bread of life. Jesus says, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." His body and blood become our bread and wine. And this bread and wine feeds us for eternal life.

This is tricky. We may wonder, does Jesus mean this spiritually? Physically? Maybe Jesus means both. After all, we eat the bread and drink the wine at the Eucharist. And so did the community of John's gospel.

We can divide it out and make it easier. For example, we can say that Jesus meant that we literally eat the bread at the eucharistic meal. At Sunday service, the bread represents Jesus' flesh. And when we eat the bread, we remember Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for our salvation. We are really and truly spiritually fed, and our souls are nourished for the journey in this life and the life to come. Personally, I find this interpretation appealing. It's neat, and I can honestly believe it. So, there it is. That was easy. Sermon over?

Not so fast. A closer look at the gospel tells us that the bread of life teaching is not neat or easy. Jesus insists that his flesh and blood is real food and drink for eternal, divine life. And it is cause for a mass rejection and exodus. When Jesus begins his ministry at the Sea of Galilee, he has 5,000 followers and by the end, only the 12 disciples remain. It's called by some commentators, "The Great Galilean Failure." What happened?

At first, crowds follow Jesus because they see him perform signs and miracles. Jesus is spreading the divine message by healing people – healing their bodies and spirits. And when 5,000 people gather to listen to his teachings for 3 days, Jesus appreciates that they are hungry, and he feeds them. It is miraculous. Jesus feeds all 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish.

After the feeding, Jesus retreats from them all. And they search for him. We learn why the crowds seek him out. They want to make Jesus their king. But Jesus is not a worldly ruler. In his temptation in the desert, Jesus resists the evil spirit and refuses to use his power for wealth, domination, or defying death. Instead, Jesus chooses to give, to serve, and to sacrifice himself for all humanity – for us.

But the crowd of 5,000 were seeking a mighty king who could provide what they wanted, and they desired bread in their bellies. It is not unreasonable. Don't we all want this? When the crowd finds Jesus, his response is shocking. Jesus says: "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. 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.”

It is like Jesus is saying, “You’re after me for the wrong reasons. What I’m offering is more satisfying than you can imagine. And right now, I’m more than you can understand.” He tries to tell the crowds and his disciples who he is – repeatedly. Here he calls himself the “Son of Man.” This is the figure foretold in the Book of Daniel. The Son of Man is the figure that will restore humanity and open the way to a healing relationship between God and all creation. Jesus is not a worldly king; he is really the divine servant. Jesus will give everything to give us life – his flesh and his spirit.

In today’s gospel teaching, Jesus tells us to eat and to drink him. He wants us to abide and to dwell with him. And yet, because of this teaching, many followers leave, and the 12 remaining disciples say, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”

Jesus knows the bread of life teaching offends people. It’s offensive to our reason, to our expectations, and to the way we understand how God is with us. Jesus asks, “Do you wish to go away?” And, Simon Peter responds, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

I relate to Peter here: “Lord, to whom can we go?” It’s like saying, “Who is better?” The answer is no one. It’s an answer that can seem like defeat – is there a better alternative? The Son of God is saying – “I’m here, revealing God to you and my teachings are challenging.” What can we do?

We can do what Peter does and be like the disciples who stick around and abide with Jesus. We can live as flesh and blood human beings who have come to believe and to know that Jesus leads us to God.

Belief in Jesus is trust in his word, and in his companionship. He abides in us, and we abide in him. Jesus’ words are, “Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.” And he also says, “It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” Without the spirit, we are nothing. And without flesh, we cannot live as ourselves – unique creations of God.

I think one of the biggest challenges of understanding Jesus’ teaching about the bread of life is that he values both flesh and spirit. He lives to provide fully for the needs of flesh and spirit. We are flesh and spirit. And Jesus is flesh and spirit also known as the divine Incarnation – the Word made flesh. We are uniquely made in the image of God. Our spirit mirrors God’s spirit. And the Holy Spirit is truth, love, peace, goodness, beauty. The highest in us reflects God. When we look in a mirror, what do we see? Are we flesh or spirit? We can get lost in the aspirations and deceptions of our own spirit just as much as we can succumb to the desires of the flesh. We are spirit and flesh. The two are not separate. And the divine in us is fed by God.

The bread we eat on Sundays is provided by the sacrifice of the Son. This is what Jesus says feeds our entire being. And we are brothers and sisters at the table of God.

Jesus’ teachings here and throughout the gospels are not meant to block us from God. They’re not meant to offend us so much that we turn away. The bread of life teaching is meant to invite us to go deeper into a relationship with God. Jesus asks us to trust him and to believe that we can find in him what we need to be fully alive. We can ask ourselves: “What do I truly need from God? What needs

does God's body and blood satisfy?" Through the Eucharist, Jesus feeds us in the flesh and unites with our spirits. God's table is where we gather to flesh out the divine life. The bread of life is the food of God for the people of God.

(Time allowed for Silent Reflection.)

Hymn: *I Am the Bread of Life*

#217 SB

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Celebrant: Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All: 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 power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. 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.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Litany #5)

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord, saying, "**Lord, hear our prayer.**"

Celebrant: Let us pray for the peace of the world; the Lord grant that we may live together in justice and faith.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for this county, and especially for Queen Elizabeth, the Governor General Mary Simon, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and all in authority; the Lord help them to serve this people according to his holy will.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for children and young people: the Lord guide their growth and development.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for the sick: the Lord deliver them and keep them in his love.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Let us pray for all who are condemned to exile, prison, harsh treatment, or hard labour, for the sake of justice and truth: the Lord support them and keep them steadfast.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: We remember the prophets, apostles, martyrs, and all who have borne witness to the gospel: the Lord direct our lives in the same spirit of services and sacrifice.

All: Lord, Hear our prayer.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY (Prayer of the Day)

All: Almighty God, we are taught by your word that all our doings without love are worth nothing. Send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtue; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL:

Celebrant: Let us bless the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

NOTICES: Feast of St. Giles – August 29th
Birthdays and Anniversaries

THE BLESSING:

Celebrant: The Lord bless and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord look upon us with favour and grant us peace.

All: Amen.

RECESSIONAL: *You are Salt for the Earth*

#502 HB

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Assisting Amy Pauley today:

Celebrant/Preacher:	Amy Pauley
First Reading:	Doug Court
Second Reading:	Norm Savill
Prayers:	Margaret Paradis
Gospel:	Peter Beckett
Server:	Peter Beckett or Beth Steffler
Audio/Visual:	David Paradis
Music:	Craig Snider
Chancel Ministry:	Beth Steffler
Sidespersons:	

This morning in our worship we remember in our prayers those of our family and friends who have immediate needs and concerns:

Stephen and Martin Bertelsen; Alvin Maynard; Kathy H.; Sylvia Ralston; Amanda Rose; Mark Ralston; Darlene Jessem; Jim Tomkins; Ray Wilson; Judy Virtanen; Lawrence Bornais; Roxanne Reid & Family & The Goodyer Family; Garn Mennell; Jane & Ron Lewis; Lorraine Whitwell; Doreen; Alan Proudlove; Anthony Sacco; Sally Rees & her mom; Michelle Sinclair, Mom and Family; Livia & Neil Purcell; Adesh; Lee & Jeannie Martin; Sheri Scott; Audrey Moody; Wally Raymond; Christine; Kim; Carl; Mark & Erin; Wendy; Brenda Jessem; Shirley; Lynda Raye; Kilravey; Rhonda; Brenda & Brian; Derek; Jaxon Croft; Sean; Amanda Stewart; Kathryn

The names below are people in need of ongoing prayers for various reasons so we ask you to please continue to pray for them and their continuing need of God's healing touch and grace:

Sophia L; Jane Tutty; Jean Glionna; Dorothy & Chuck; Kevin Hamann; Marilyn Foley; Kadeem Broomes; Diane M.; Bill Snow; Deborah Hall; Owen; Jen Galicinski; Arlene; Joan Gough; Lorraine W; Stephanie; Fr. Murray; Marg Abbott; Jordan; Margie Mills; Eunice Merrett; Jean Wallace; Nancy Dodds; Bill & Cathy Gray; Wendy Goodyer; Donna Wilson; Gordon Kennedy; Paul & Rose McIntyre; Jim Tomkins; Do Saunders; Jefferson Jr.; June Osolin; Tanya Wade-Vargas.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa

In the Toronto Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for:

Bishop Riscylla Shaw