



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 15, 2021

THOUGHTS OF PREPARATION

WE DON'T LIVE BY BREAD ALONE, but we also don't live long without it. To eat is to acknowledge our dependence—both on food and on each other. It also reminds us of other kinds of emptiness that not even the blue-plate special can touch.

-- Frederick Buechner, *Wishful Thinking*

If you are hoping for your well-earned crown, harp, and white robe, it is your False Self that is doing the hoping. This is why Jesus mocks [all] silly religious arguments... And he says, in effect, that you have missed the whole point. We are all to be “children of the resurrection” in a new kind of “aliveness” which is based not on singularity but precisely on *communion*. Only the True Self understands and enjoys that, whereas the False Self feels diminished.

-- Richard Rohr, *Immortal Diamond*

Welcome

Prelude

“Be Still”

(by David J. Evans)

(Isabella Thoroughman - Flute, Lilyanne Thoroughman – Violin)

Tower Bell

*Responsive Call to Worship

Beloved One, Love made real in this world, You who create, You who bless:

*drawn by Your grace like the aroma of fresh bread, I savor You.
I take You in.*

I eat the flesh of Your presence. I drink the blood of Your love.

Enter me. Become me.

Be my strength and health, my nerve and muscle.

By Your grace make me into the bread of Your life.

As You feed us now in our worship, strengthen all of us, through worship, prayer and praise;

*may we become, again, Your body which nourishes the world, the
“bread” that satisfies the world all around us and embraces all
people with kindness!*

***Unison Prayer of Adoration & Confession**

God we need wisdom, in these days of madness and misdirection, of panic and confusion. So many voices, so many signs, so many choices and opinions

all promising wisdom and the life it brings. It's tempting to listen, tempting to try these well-marketed principles especially now, when so much is at stake.

But, then I remember, wisdom is not an idea, not a method or technique, not a formula to buy or sell. It's much simpler, and much more difficult than that, for it requires the unpredictable--the time-consuming and vulnerable and costly work of relationship with You. So, here I am, to lose myself in You again, and to let Your wisdom find me. Amen.

(Silence is kept)

***Words of Assurance (responsive)**

Don't let yourselves get taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with him. Don't even hang around people like that. You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now.

The bright light of Christ makes our way plain. So no more stumbling around. We will get on with it! the good, the right, the true—these are the actions of wise and awakened souls. We'll work to figure out what will please Christ, and then do it!

***Gloria Patri**

(Creatorex)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

Scripture Lesson

From the Hebrew “Writings:”
Proverbs 9:1-6 (The Message)

Lady Wisdom has built and furnished her home;
it’s supported by seven hewn timbers.
The banquet meal is ready to be served: lamb roasted,
wine poured out, table set with silver and flowers.
Having dismissed her serving maids,
Lady Wisdom goes to town, stands in a prominent place,
and invites everyone within sound of her voice:
“Are you confused about life, don’t know what’s going on?
Come with me, oh come, have dinner with me!
I’ve prepared a wonderful spread—fresh-baked bread,
roast lamb, carefully selected wines.
Leave your impoverished confusion and live!
Walk up the street to a life with meaning.”

Anthem

“Ancient Words” (Craig Courtney)

*Ancient words, ever true, ancient words, ever true.
Ancient words, long preserved, for our walk in this world,
they resound with God’s own heart. O let the ancient words impart.
Words of life, words of hope give us strength, help us cope,
in this world where-e’er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.
Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you,
we have come with open hearts. O let the ancient words impart.
Holy words of our faith handed down to this age, came to us through sacrifice.
O heed the faithful words of Christ.
Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
they resound with God’s own heart. O let the ancient words impart.
Ancient words, ever true, changing me and changing you,
we have come with open hearts. O let the ancient words impart.*

Scripture Lesson

From the annals of the Israelite Kings:
1 Kings 2:10-12, 46b, 3:1-14

Then David joined his ancestors. He was buried in the City of David. David ruled Israel for forty years—seven years in Hebron and another thirty-three in Jerusalem. Solomon took over on the throne of his father David; he had a firm grip on the kingdom.

The king then gave orders to Benaiah son of Jehoiada; he went out and struck Shimei dead. The kingdom was now securely in Solomon's grasp.

Solomon arranged a marriage contract with Pharaoh, king of Egypt. He married Pharaoh's daughter and brought her to the City of David until he had completed building his royal palace and God's Temple and the wall around Jerusalem. Meanwhile, the people were worshiping at local shrines because at that time no temple had yet been built to the Name of God. Solomon loved God and continued to live in the God-honoring ways of David, his father, except that he also worshiped at the local shrines, offering sacrifices and burning incense.

The king went to Gibeon, the most prestigious of the local shrines, to worship. He sacrificed a thousand Whole-Burnt-Offerings on that altar. That night, there in Gibeon, God appeared to Solomon in a dream: God said, "What can I give you? Ask."

Solomon said, "You were extravagantly generous in love with David my father, and he lived faithfully in your presence, his relationships were just and his heart right. And you have persisted in this great and generous love by giving him—and this very day!—a son to sit on his throne.

"And now here I am: God, my God, you have made me, your servant, ruler of the kingdom in place of David my father. I'm too young for this, a mere child! I don't know the ropes, hardly know the 'ins' and 'outs' of this job. And here I am, set down in the middle of the people you've chosen, a great people—far too many to ever count.

"Here's what I want: Give me a God-listening heart so I can lead your people well, discerning the difference between good and evil. For who on their own is capable of leading your glorious people?"

God, the Master, was delighted with Solomon's response. And God said to him, "Because you have asked for this and haven't grasped after a long life, or riches, or the doom of your enemies, but you have asked for the ability to lead and govern well, I'll give you what you've asked for—I'm giving you a wise and mature heart. There's never been one like you before; and there'll be no one after. As a bonus, I'm giving you both the wealth and glory you didn't ask for—there's not a king anywhere who will come up to your mark. And if you stay on course, keeping your eye on the life-map and the God-signs as your father David did, I'll also give you a long life."

The Church Prays Together

Silent Prayer -- Pastoral Prayer

Lord's Prayer

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, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory Invitation

In our Old Testament reading we hear young King Solomon asking not for riches, power, or fame, but for wisdom--for a discerning heart, so he can please God. Let us bring our gifts to God in the same humility...not to score points or so we can "feel good," but only to please God and be vessels of love and service!

Offertory

"As Long As I Have Breath"

(Sue Farrar)

*As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord.
As long as I have life, let my soul rejoice.
In times of sore distress; in times of loneliness;*

*As long as I have breath, I will bless You, Lord.
As long as life is mine, I will sing your song.
Your joy brings forth my praise; Your peace fills all my days,*

*Let me know Your loving kindness every day,
As you walk beside me pointing out the way.
As long as I have being, I will trust in You;
You are my God; I lift my soul to You.*

*As long as I have breath, I will serve You, Lord.
As long as life is mine, I'll exalt Your word.
And when this life shall pass, And I'm at home at last;
Thru all eternity, I will praise You, Lord.*

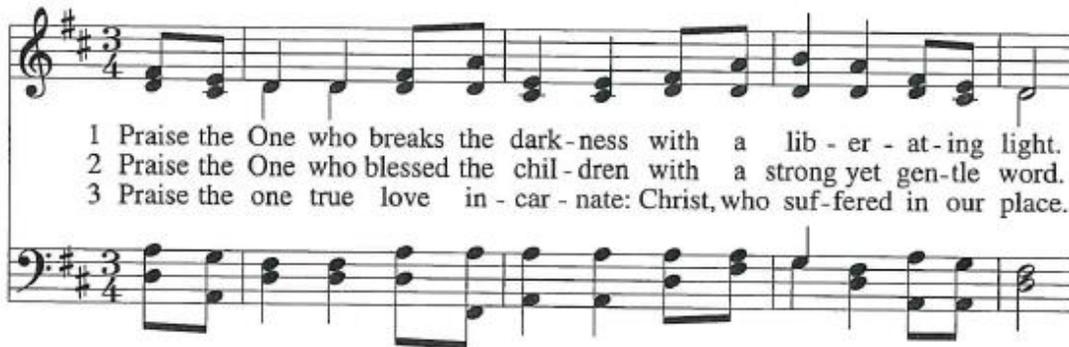
Scripture Lesson

From the New Testament Gospels: John 6:51-58

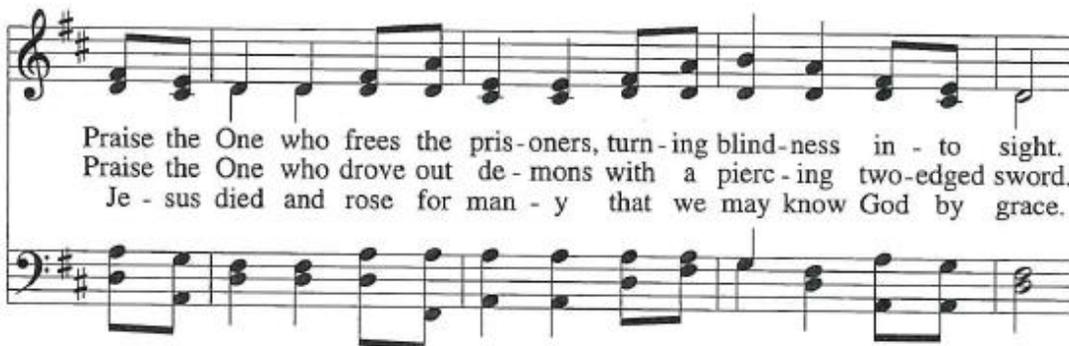
"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you,

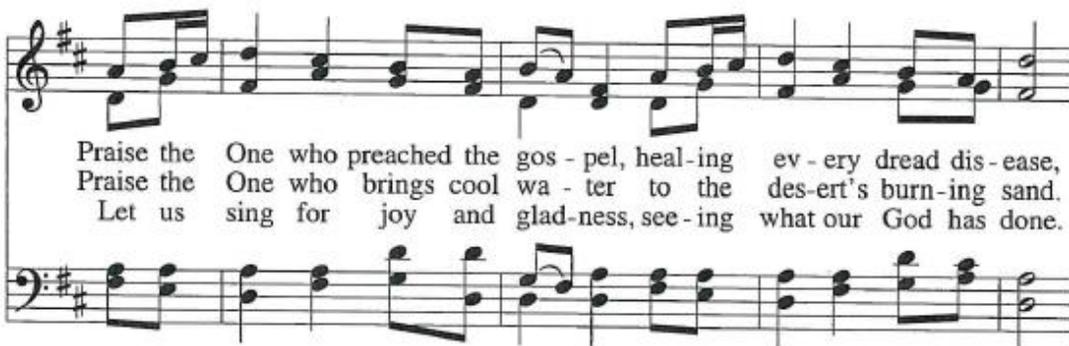
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness 93



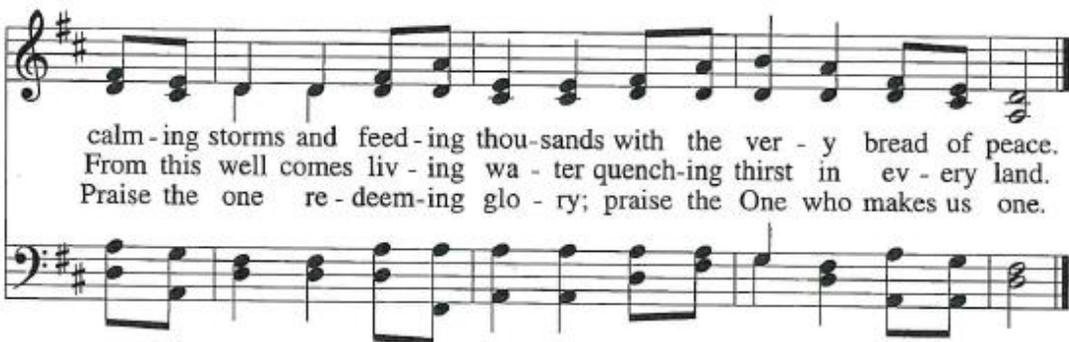
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light.
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word.
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place.



Praise the One who frees the pris - oners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
Praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - ery dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand.
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
From this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - ery land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.