

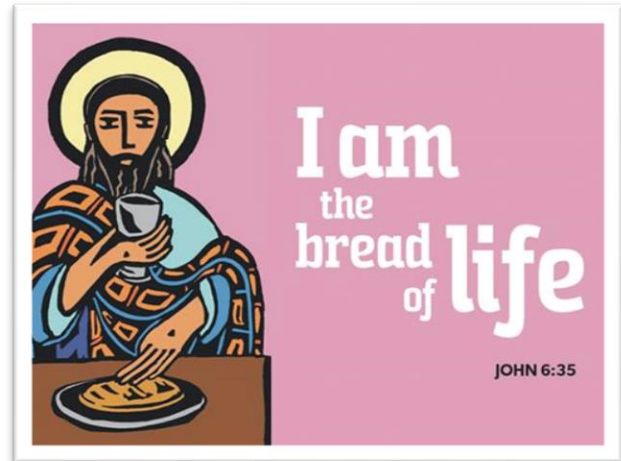
About the Readings on August 11, 2024

***Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)

Sunday, August 7–13

Lectionary 19

In this third Sunday with the bread of life theme from John 6, we start to encounter some push-back from Jesus' hearers—both the original ones and quite possibly some present-day ones as well. Yet with the challenges are some vital promises of life.



1 Kings 19:4-8

This passage is chosen to parallel today's excerpt because Elijah, too, is called back from death to the life that comes from hearing the word of God. As is typical in biblical narratives, the person alone meets with God but is then sent back to the community.

The Psalm for the Day

We have joined with Elijah, running away from death and toward the mountain of God and fed by God's food, and we join in singing Psalm 34:1-8. We too have suffered affliction; we too enjoy the taste of the Lord. Psalm 34 is an alphabetical acrostic, and so symbolizes the whole of knowledge that comes from eating the words of God. The service of Holy Communion suggests verse 8 as a weekly welcome to the table (*ELW*, p. 112).

Ephesians 4:25-32 5:1-2

In talking about Christian living, the author of Ephesians does not mention, for example, the Ten Commandments, but rather urges an ethical life based on communal care. The passage is not about punishment for those who disobey, but about how to imitate Christ. This is the life that Christ gives in his flesh. The passage includes an early reference to God as triune.

John 6:35, 41-51

The traditional Christian iconography that depicts the evangelist John as the eagle flying highest aptly represents the author of today's passage. Life in Christ is so far beyond what we can see and know that language fails. Christ came down from heaven; believers will never hunger again; they will not die. We hear the good news of the new life of Christ hinted at in these extraordinary sentences.