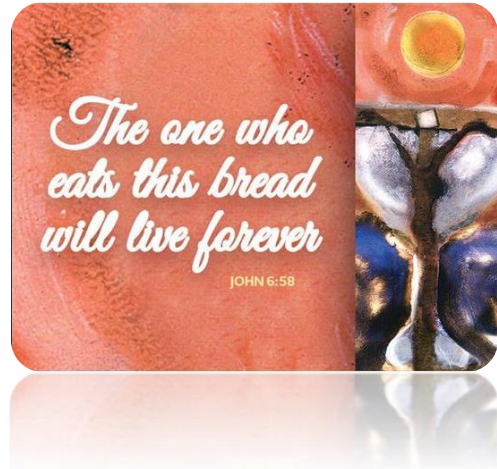


## About the Readings on August 18, 2024

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

### Sunday, August 14–20 Lectionary 20

This Sunday's passage from John 6 is illumined by the readings from Proverbs and Ephesians. The stark vocabulary of the gospel can go down well when at the table we eat a piece of good bread and drink a swallow of fine wine.



### [Proverbs 9:1-6](#)

Christians have seen in the Woman Wisdom poems a metaphor for Christ, who serves up a meal of bread and wine and calls us all to live in the way of insight.

### [The Psalm for the Day](#)

Last week the psalm was 34:1-8, and this week [Psalm 34:9-14](#). Verse 11 sounds as if Woman Wisdom is speaking to us. Lions may go hungry, but we eat the food of God.

### [Ephesians 5:15-20](#)

When Christ lives in us, we are filled with his Spirit and respond in praise to God. This passage complements the Proverbs reading. We are to live wisely, not getting drunk; yet we respond to Wisdom's invitation to "drink of the wine I have mixed." The juxtaposition of these passages exemplifies the hermeneutic of the lectionary: no biblical passage stands alone, but all are flanked with other scriptural voices, as we work at Christian interpretation.

### [John 6:51-58](#)

When we eat the food of holy communion (the verb in v. 53 connotes "munch"), we ingest the life of Christ. Christians have executed each other over acceptable language with which to explain the mystery of the sacrament. While we refrain from such polemic, we are called to try our best to give contemporary synonyms for the meaning of this meal. We are what we eat: in this meal, we together eat Christ, and so become his body in the world.