

Sunday, August 4th 2024

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost



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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod believes the biblical teaching that in communion we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. If you are a baptized Christian who has been instructed in the biblical teaching of communion, and if you agree with our confession of faith, please feel free to commune with us. If you have any questions, please speak with our pastor.

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh

Musician – Susan Michael

Lay Reader – Rosie Cabrera

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Jesus Is the True and Living Bread from Heaven

Having rescued Israel “*out of the land of Egypt*” (Ex. 16:6), the Lord manifested His glory and made Himself known to His people. He fed them with “*meat to eat*” in the evening and with “*bread from heaven*” in the morning (Ex. 16:4, 8, 12). But now, the “*true bread from heaven,*” which the Father gives to you, is the Son, “*who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world*” (John 6:32–33). Whoever comes to Him “*shall not hunger,*” and whoever believes in Him “*shall never thirst.*” He is “*the bread of life,*” who gives Himself to you as “*the food that endures to eternal life*” (John 6:27, 35). By the gracious working of God, you believe in Him by the calling of one Spirit through the Gospel, so that you also have “*one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all*” (Eph. 4:4–6). As you eat His one body in the Holy Supper, so you belong to the one Body of His Church, in which you “*are to grow up in every way into him who is the head*” (Eph. 4:15).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude

Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting

Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn

“Evening and Morning”

LSB #726

(stand)

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross † may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *Ps. 130:3-4*

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 78:23-25

P He commanded the skies above
and opened the doors of heaven,

**C and he rained down on them manna to eat
and gave them the grain of heaven.**

P Man ate of the bread of the angels;
he sent them food in abundance.

**C *Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Merciful Father, You gave Your Son Jesus as the heavenly bread of life. Grant us faith to feast on Him in Your Word and Sacraments that we may be nourished unto life everlasting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(sit)

Old Testament Reading

Exodus 16:2-15

²The whole congregation of the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness, ³and the people of Israel said to them, “Would that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the meat pots and ate bread to the full, for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the LORD said to Moses, “Behold, I am about to rain bread from heaven for you, and the people shall go out and gather a day’s portion every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in my law or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather daily.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the people of Israel, “At evening you shall know that it was the LORD who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against the LORD. For what are we, that you grumble against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When the LORD gives you in the evening meat to eat and in the morning bread to the full, because the LORD has heard your grumbling that you grumble against him—what are we? Your grumbling is not against us but against the LORD.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, ‘Come near before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” ¹⁰And as soon as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the people of Israel, they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud. ¹¹And the LORD said to Moses, ¹²“I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the LORD your God.’”

¹³In the evening quail came up and covered the camp, and in the morning dew lay around the camp. ¹⁴And when the dew had gone up, there was on the face of the wilderness a fine, flake-like thing, fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the people of Israel saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. And Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the LORD has given you to eat.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 4:1-16

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. ⁸Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives,
and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹(In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

(stand)

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

John 6:22-35

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²²On the next day the crowd that remained on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there, and that Jesus had not entered the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. ²³Other boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. ²⁴So when the crowd saw that Jesus was not there, nor his disciples, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum, seeking Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” ²⁶Jesus answered them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.”** ²⁸Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” ²⁹Jesus answered them, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”** ³⁰So they said to him, “Then what sign do you

do, that we may see and believe you? What work do you perform? ³¹Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” ³²Jesus then said to them, “**Truly, truly, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.**” ³⁴They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”
³⁵Jesus said to them, “**I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.**”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

(sit)

Hymn of the Day

“Father Most Holy”

LSB #504

Sermon

“This is the work of God...”

John 6:22-35

(stand)

Apostles’ Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, “Peace be with you” (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.

(sit)

Prayer of the Church

P Lord, in Your mercy

C hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.

If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home>



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

For those unfamiliar with our congregation’s practice regarding the Lord’s Supper, please refer to “Our Communion Policy” located at the beginning of the bulletin.

(stand)

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C 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.

The Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."
- P** In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



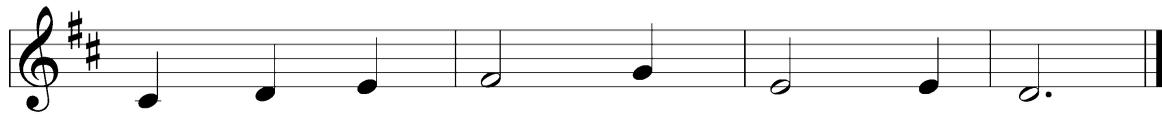
1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(sit)

Distribution Hymn *“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”* LSB 636

(stand)

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us

through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and
the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

(sit)

Closing Hymn

“Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer”

LSB 918

P Go in Peace!

C Serve the Lord!

Postlude

Selected Music

SERMON NOTES

John 6:22-35 | *“This is the work of God...”*

1. In John’s Gospel, _____ refers to _____ by 7 metaphorical “_____” statements.
 2. “The works of God” refers to that which _____ desires us to do in His _____ for our _____.
 3. There is really only one “work” that matters, and that is _____; belief is a work—a human act—but an act which is made possible only by the _____ of the _____.
 4. Every _____ enjoys two kinds of life: _____ and _____.
 5. Jesus tells the crowd “I am the _____ of _____; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever _____ in me shall never thirst.”
 6. To _____ our spiritual life, we need this Bread of Life, Jesus himself, offered freely through the Means of Grace, in particular the Lord’s Supper, and _____ through _____.
-

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany’s prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Herb and Markie Burch - missionaries in Belize

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless– it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is still very much a work in progress that we hope will help us reach those in our community and beyond with the Gospel message of hope and salvation in Christ. In the coming days it should be available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, August 4th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Thursday, August 8th

- 12:00pm – Neighbors at Neighbor's

Sunday, August 11th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Adult Sunday School: Join us at 10am for *Isaiah: A 12-Week Study* (started on June 23)... Isaiah's prophecy, which alternates between promises of judgment and restoration, reminds God's people of the magnitude of humanity's sin, the judgment that we all deserve, and how God displays his glory by saving sinners.

Thursday 6pm Zoom Study: Ever wondered if there was just a bit more to some of those lessons you learned in Sunday school? Join us online for *Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School*, through August 29. Registration: bit.ly/ELC-Stuff

Lutheran Hour: Next Sunday, August 11th – “God’s Peacemakers for a Troubled World” – Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz. Archives August: Don’t let anger, disagreement, and stress damage your relationships. Hear how God changes troublemakers into peacemakers. (Philippians 4:4-13)

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUOradio).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org: Begin studying Ephesians on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), finish studying the Gospel of Luke and begin 1 Thessalonians on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and consider our Lutheran sacraments on Concord Matters (8/10 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org and the KFUE Radio app!

Answers to Sermon Notes:

1. In John's Gospel, *Jesus* refers to *himself* by 7 metaphorical "I am" statements.

2. "The works of God" refers to that which *God* desires us to do in His *plan* for our *salvation*.

3. There is really only one "work" that matters, and that is *faith*; belief is a work—a human act—but an act which is made possible only by the *gift* of the *Son*.

4. Every *Christian* enjoys two kinds of life: *bodily* and *spiritual*.

5. Jesus tells the crowd "I am the *bread of life*," whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever *believes* in me shall never thirst."

6. To *sustain* our spiritual life, we need this Bread of Life, Jesus himself, offered freely through the Means of Grace, in particular the Lord's Supper, and *received* through *faith*.

66 Books at the Bastrop Public Library: Pastor E.B. will lead a new, monthly (3rd Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm) instructional study at Bastrop Public Library, **66 Books**, designed for those who are unchurched and/or have little to no familiarity with the Bible. This beginner-level offering will look at the origin, purpose, and relevance of the Bible. Attendees will receive a complimentary ESV Bible. Starts August 20. Please take a flyer and help us get the Word out!

RightNow Media: We're excited to share that Epiphany Lutheran Church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** that can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include **free discussion guides and handouts**. In addition to series on books of the Bible, RightNow Media has videos for everyone in the family on a variety of topics like marriage, parenting, personal finances, mental health, and more. There's even a **library just for kids with over 2,000 safe, entertaining videos**. RightNow Media has a free app that's available on all major streaming devices so you and your family can access content anywhere, anytime. For FREE access to RightNow Media, visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/elcb or scan the QR code.



3-minute



Grumbling Against God

Exodus 16–17 vividly illustrates a recurring pattern of Israelite behavior: encountering difficulties, complaining with a lack of faith, receiving God's merciful provision, and then quickly forgetting His faithfulness. Despite witnessing extraordinary miracles, such as the parting of the Red Sea and the plagues in Egypt, the Israelites consistently grumbled against Moses and Aaron, revealing their underlying mistrust in Yahweh.

In Exodus 15, just after the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, the Israelites face a lack of water and grumble, questioning what they are to drink. This complaint is stark, considering Yahweh's recent demonstration of His power over water. In response, Yahweh provides for them by making bitter water drinkable, yet the Israelites soon forget His provision.

As they journey from Elim to the Desert of Sin (Exodus 16:1), the Israelites encounter hunger and again grumble against Moses and Aaron, lamenting their departure from Egypt and expressing a desire to have died there. Despite their ingratitude, Yahweh promises to rain down bread from heaven and provide quail in the evenings, demonstrating His ongoing provision and testing their obedience. The Israelites are instructed to gather only enough food for each day, reflecting the Lord's Prayer's request for daily sustenance (Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3). On the sixth day, they gather double to observe the Sabbath rest. Since Yahweh's promise of sustenance for the next day was to be trusted, they were not to show mistrust by retaining food overnight. However, some ignore this directive and discover that any food kept overnight quickly spoils, except on the Sabbath. Some Israelites also show a lack of trust by going out to gather on the Sabbath. Of course, they find nothing (Exodus 16:20-30).

Exodus 17 continues this theme as the Israelites move to Rephidim and again face a lack of water. They quarrel with Moses, reminiscing about Egypt and testing Yahweh's patience. Yet, Yahweh mercifully instructs Moses to strike a rock, bringing forth water for the people and demonstrating His gracious presence (Exodus 17:1-7). The chapter concludes with Yahweh aiding the Israelites in defeating the Amalekites, contingent on Moses' upheld arms, symbolizing divine support (Exodus 17:8-16).

These chapters highlight several key truths. Firstly, the Israelites' reliance on Yahweh's daily gifts is unmistakable, reminding us to recognize His ongoing provision in our lives. Secondly, Jesus as the Bread of Life (John 6:32-33, 48) surpasses the manna provided through Moses, offering eternal sustenance through His Word and Sacraments (John 6:35, 48, 51, 63). Thirdly, Paul in 1 Corinthians 10 connects the divine provision in the wilderness to Christ, emphasizing that the spiritual sustenance the Israelites received pointed to Christ, who is central to both the Old and New Testament redemptions.

The story of the Israelites' journey through the wilderness, their repeated complaints, and Yahweh's unwavering mercy underscores the importance of trust and faith in God's provision and serves as a powerful reminder of His enduring grace and faithfulness.