

WORSHIP AT HOME 25 AUGUST 2024; Ordinary time 21B

SONG: *Lord, I need you*; <https://youtu.be/LuvfMDhTyMA>

Lord I come, I confess bowing here, I find my rest
Without You, I fall apart You're the one that guides my heart
Lord, I need You, oh, I need You every hour, I need You
My one defense, my righteousness Oh God, how I need You
Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more where grace is found is
where You are and where You are, Lord, I am free holiness is Christ
in me Lord, I need You, oh, I need You every hour, I need You My
one defense, my righteousness Oh God, how I need You So teach
my song to rise to You when temptation comes my way and when I
cannot stand, I'll fall on You Jesus, You're my hope and stay Lord, I
need You, oh, I need You every hour, I need You My one defense,
my righteousness Oh God, how I need You You're my one defense,
my righteousness Oh God, how I need You my one defense, my
righteousness Oh God, how I need You

PSALM 34:1,8

I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my
mouth. O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who
take refuge in him.

SONG: *Taste and see*; <https://youtu.be/yFB4LYsnIUw>

BIBLE READING: John 6:53b-69

...“Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my
flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on
the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.
⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in
them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the
Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This 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.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the
synagogue at Capernaum. ⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it,
they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus,
being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to
them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son
of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives
life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are
spirit and life. ⁶⁴But 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. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this
reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is
granted by the Father.” ⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned
back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the
twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him,
“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We
have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

SONG: *I am the living bread*; <https://youtu.be/M3rMJKIT0fo>

I am the living bread, which came down out of heaven; If anyone, if
anyone eats of this bread he shall live forever; And the bread (and
the bread) Which I will (which I) Will give is my flesh, given for (given
for) for the life (for the) life of the world. I am the living bread, which
came down out of heaven; If anyone, if anyone eats of this bread he
shall live forever

MEDITATION

Friend, imagine being with the crowd first hearing Jesus say, ‘unless
you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no
life in you...for my flesh is true food and my blood true drink. Those
who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.’
What would you think? Cannibalism perhaps? Surely not, those days
are surely past? Aren’t they? Are you shocked? Jesus says, ‘does
this offend you?’ Yet, this is what Jesus says, literally; *munch on me*.
A hearkening to the idea that when one ate the flesh and drank the

blood of another one actually embodied their strength into oneself. One would kill their adversary and then eat them purposely. It still happens in some remote places of the world today. Bring it home. Perhaps we do not literally eat one another anymore, but we still hurt, harm, kill one another even if we stop short of eating. Why? Wasn't the sacrifice of Christ the sacrifice to end all sacrifice? Is that why we are told to eat him? Think about it.

Some of us will think of the Mass, or the Eucharist, or the Lord's Last Supper. Today, depending on the churchly tradition there is a 'more or less' belief that the elements literally become the flesh and blood of Jesus. Some find this idea literally so abhorrent, and/or impossible they go completely symbolical in thought. Some hold to more literal belief in a priestly transubstantial occurrence. Some hold to a more mystical both/and belief. Some don't know what they believe at all, and some are so put off they think it is all hogwash and just reject all of it outright. Yes, it is difficult. So, where are you? Does it matter what you believe has something to do with ultimate belief and a strengthening relationship with God? Perhaps that's the key? After all, it is God that enables us to come to Jesus, not firstly our determination (v. 65). So why give up? Who among us has all the answers? Perhaps, the answer in 'right belief' is up for grabs, and we need simply to allow God to work in us while simply siding with Peter who believed trusting one way or another eternal life is with God's Word/Spirit. Not that we should stop trying to understand, but leave absolute certainty in the air, on the cross, ascended in death and rest in consequent resurrection—you know the rest of the story. God works in and for us. This Holy One is in heaven praying for us. We can and should still eat and drink to our heart's content for 'No,' the end is not yet, but certainly coming. Amen.

SONG: *Taste and See*; <https://youtu.be/9UkFzy5Szgs>

PRAYER

Let us pray for the church...

Let us pray for all leadership...

Let us pray for the sick, sorrowful, suffering etc...

Let us pray with thanksgiving for the dead...

Let us pray the Lord's Prayer...Our Father

BLESSING

I will bless You O Lord, with a heart of thanksgiving I will bless you O Lord. And we will be blessed because of You.

CHARGE: Let us go in trust, knowing God is with us, always.

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