

**THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES**  
**August 26, 2018**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

+ JOS 24:1-2A, 15-17, 18B + EPH 5:2A, 25-32 + Gospel JN 6:60-69 +

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*You have the words of eternal life.*

From the last Sunday in July all the way to today, we have pieces of *The Bread of Life Discourse*. This follows the *Multiplication of the Loaves*. Before you read today's selection, go all the way back to the beginning of John 6 and read again.



In John 6:35, Jesus proclaims, *"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.* In John 6:53 he asserts, *"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."*

All of this precedes our Gospel today in which the followers found difficult to understand or believe what Jesus was teaching them. As a result, some walked away. But Peter got it and asserts, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

In the light of all that is going on with unrest in the world and in the church, many people say they struggle to keep their faith. Peter's words can help keep us all focused on what is clear. We choose to be disciples of Jesus, we stay the course, and we devote ourselves to the Eucharist. As Augustine said, "If we receive the Eucharist worthily, we become what we receive."

A friend of mine recently said in a homily, the Eucharist is not for "spiritual couch potatoes." It is food for the journey. It is the food that nourishes the divine life within us. It is the food that gives us wings for the journey. It is the food that is the nourishment we need to do as Jesus did.

**Reflection**

- + In what ways does the Eucharist energize you for mission?
  - + What are the most important "words of eternal life" of Jesus that most speak to you?
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