



The Shepherd's Voice

July 31, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

“Labor for Enduring Food”

Jesus said, “Do 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.” John 6: 27 (This Sunday’s passage: John 6: 24-35)

Jesus would go on to say that the ‘labor’ or ‘work’ one must do to receive that ‘food’, is to ‘believe’ in Him whom the Father has sent, . . . namely Jesus the Messiah. Jesus compares Himself then to the ‘bread’ or ‘manna’ that came down in the wilderness during Moses’ time of leading the people of Israel through the desert wilderness of Sin. (Interesting that it would be called that . . . check out Exodus 16: 1-16.) But Jesus is saying His very life is that manna, the bread or food that we are to consume to have sustenance and vitality along life’s journey. “For the bread of God is He who comes down (Jesus) from heaven and gives life to the world.” (vs. 33)

We labor for many things in this world. We are in a timeframe of human history when it’s very hard to get and keep a job. There is tenuousness and insecurity for many who are in lines of work that may be downsizing or companies being sold or technology advancing to close out the need for laborers. The USA is by no means the only country laboring under this burden. Many countries including great societies like Greece or Spain are in economic crisis. Our country is in huge debt to China who holds interest in so many of our companies and properties. Many jobs go overseas, i.e. GE to China. We are being held then in ‘jobs-ransom’! We cannot default on those loans, so our children’s children will be paying them off. Sensible folks will not only demand our leaders reject more debt. Likewise, we individually need work to pay off our personal debts as a high priority. We labor with a slave-like bonding to that

debt which cripples our creativity and productivity. We must look at the repercussions of this debt as it impacts our common life together. Christians therefore need to work for something better . . . we need to labor for that which is imperishable and eternal. We need to work for and in Him who sets us free from the slavery to indebtedness to this world and frees us for the eternal life we will have with Him who sets us free—Jesus Christ!

The food that Jesus gives is one that I never tire of or miss an opportunity to receive. Some may say that they can’t stand eating meat, or always having pasta, or ‘please, not one more PB&J’! We easily tire of the same menu or repetition of menu each week . . . ‘if it’s Tuesday it’s spaghetti’. But, we faithfully come each week to be fed by the Lord Jesus, with His very life; His Body and Blood. We are fed with the very food of heaven! The Israelites “grumbled” in the wilderness in having to eat ‘manna’; the thin, crusty honey wafer-like substance that fell from heaven for each morning’s ration to keep the Israelites alive in the wilderness. When they went years of the same ‘old thing’, that completely nourished them, they pleaded for meat. God sent them quail. They gorged themselves to sickness and death. It’s an amazing story of greed and selfishness that all may learn from even to this day. However, as we partake of Jesus’ Bread and Blood each week, we are given such sweet communion with Him that we are always aware of the newness of His life in ours, the freshness of His Spirit in ours, the joy and warmth of His love in our hearts and souls, that we never tire of this food.

In fact, we as a church ‘labor’ together to always make sure this ‘food’ happens Sunday by Sunday! This is the amazing and Grace-filled act we do to honor Him who died for us so that we might partake in His Life forever. We gather to receive the most blessed of all Sacraments, the food of His Body and Blood. We make available this freely to the world

that is enslaved to the material and consumptive addictions that hold them in bondage. And all for one simple request...That they simply believe in Him who was sent by the Father! Professing with their lives that they believe in Jesus...that's it.

May you never tire of the most blessed of all gifts God continues to give us through His perfect Son Jesus. May your hearts, souls, and bodies be nourished by His Body and Blood. May the Lord find room in you to live so that all your labors are in Him and for Him and His Kingdom. May your labors here on earth be secured by the real and everlasting truth that all who labor in Christ labor

for eternity, an eternity of communion with Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior. This gift turns 'grumbling' into 'rejoicing' and praising the Lord forever!

Can't wait for Sunday to have the true 'manna' from heaven...hungry for more of Jesus! Can't wait to see you all again around the table of the Lord!

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

August 5, 2012	BCP-Proper 13	8:00 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Exodus 16:1-16	David Green	Chris Kilby
Psalm Reader	Psalm 78	Choir	Ann Fox
Second Reader	Ephesians 4:17-25	Maureen Green	Stephen Painter
Intercessor		Acolyte	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers		Doug Hall, Jackie Lansing	Carolyn Blumberg, KC Winward
Acolytes		Joy Rosendale	Fiona K (C); Damon W (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers		Paula Sholly	Paula Sholly, Judi & Bill Collins
Ushers		Rob Ackerman, Dick Sholly	Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ken Putnam, Ray Seibold
Vestry Person of Day			Jane Rost
Healing Ministers		Rudy Theobald, Jan Simon	Kari Campbell, Connie Fowle, Ann & JR Fox
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

Surveys

If you still have one of the surveys that we recently handed out, please return it to the church as soon as possible. We want to get a complete tally of all your suggestions and comments.

Healing Prayer Service

Wednesday, August 1

7:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 12th

Special Second Sunday

One service at 9:00 a.m.

Many of the surveys that were returned asked for some combined services so we can all get to know each other better. Sunday, August 12th will be the first of those Sundays. Come early while it's still cool outside and worship with the whole church together. We will have lots of refreshments after the service.

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m.- Holy Eucharist Service

9:30 a.m.- Fellowship

10:00 a.m.- No Sunday School

10:15 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
Service with Worship Team

Sunday, August 19th
Special
Congregational
Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Readings for Sunday

Exodus 16:1-16

Psalm 78

Ephesians 4:17-25

John 6:24-35

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

This Week at Grace – July 31 – August 7

Tues. July 31

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study -Revelation

4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

Wed August 1

9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. Healing Prayer Service

Thurs. August 2

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study

8:00 a.m. Clergy Meeting

10-Noon Play Group

11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis

Fri. August 3

Fr. Joe's Day Off

Sat. August 4

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship

9:30 a.m. Sewing of Bible Holders

Sun. August 5

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service/ Worship Team

Mon. August 6

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. August 7

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace

4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Rector's Bible Study
Tuesdays
11:30 a.m.

B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Revelation.

Everyone is welcome.

Save the date!

July 31 Stand Up For Kids

Aug. 3 Healing Prayer at Grace

Aug. 8 Soaking Prayer

Aug. 14 Scentsy Candle Party/Fundraiser for
Family Friendly Ministry

Aug. 18 9-3 Men's Cursillo Team meeting

Aug. 19 Congregational Meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 19 Beach Day

at Del Mar Beach, Camp Pendleton

Sept. 15 Diocesan Convention

Sept. 19 Vestry meeting

Sept. 20-23 Men's Cursillo

Sept. 23 Benefit Concert at Grace for CHC

Sept. 27-30 Women's Cursillo

Oct. 3 Healing Prayer

Oct. 6 Blessing of the Animals

Oct. 10 Soaking Prayer

Oct. 17 Vestry meeting

Nov. 10 2:00 p.m. – Helen Fritz Memorial Service

Nov. 12 Mike Endicott – OSL Healing Conference
at Grace Anglican Church