

Sermon Title: **Jesus is the Bread of Life**

Bible: **John 6:24-35 (NRSV)**

When: on Sunday, August 1st, 2021

Where: about 25 people (including YouTube live streaming viewers) at Gilroy UMC

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, thank you so much for calling us to your church. Through this church, we feel your presence. Through this church, we know that we are the body of Jesus Christ. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

1. What do you like about this church?

What do you like about this church? We have a great Praise Team. With our own voices, we sing together. We have a wonderful Audio/Video Team. From wherever we are, we can join our worship service. We have generous programs: the Homeless Ministry, Backpack Project, and Christmas Giving Project. We have meaningful small groups: Yoga, Serendipity Bible Study, Armchair Theologians, Women's and Men's Breakfasts, and our Prayer Team. We have great United Methodist Women! What else? These are all important. And I would like to add one more. Can I say that we have Jesus in this church?

2. Jesus is the Bread of Life!

Today's Gospel Reading of John from the lectionary is the story that comes after Jesus fed five thousand. People were looking for Jesus, because when they were hungry, Jesus fed them. In my understanding, it is totally okay to ask God for what we need and what we want. I believe

that our God gives us what we need and what we want. But it is not the end. Furthermore, our God teaches us that Jesus is what we need and what we want. Our God gives us not only about the bread of this world, but also about the bread of life. Jesus is the bread of life. Our God gives us Godself.

3. Can We Meet Jesus in this Church?

Are you Christians? About 70% of Koreans and Korean-Americans in the United States come to the church and regard themselves as Christians. But, in South Korea, about 30% of Koreans regard themselves as Christians. In the United States, more than twice as many Koreans come to the church. That's because as immigrants or as a minority group, they can find what they want and what they need from the church. They can feel their home country, Korea. They speak in Korean, and they eat Korean food. They can make friends. Sometimes, they can find jobs through church members. They can also share a lot of survival information as immigrants. Finally, and thankfully, they can meet Jesus at the church. In other words, at the beginning, they might be fed by the bread of this world, but eventually, they taste the bread of life, and they become Jesus' disciples beyond being Christian in name only.

Have you heard from others, "I am not religious, but I am spiritual?" At the Seminary, I have learned of this trend in the United States. More and more Americans define themselves as spiritual, but not as religious. Many Americans might define themselves as Christians, but they do not attend a church. How do you understand this trend? Somewhat, I understand this trend, because coming to a church can be a headache or stressful, and less joyful. But I define myself

as spiritual and religious. Now that I am an ordained pastor, please remember that I might be more biased about this though.

4. The Body of Jesus Christ

At the beginning of worship, we light two candles to remember Jesus Christ, who was both human and God. Jesus Christ was embodied as well as spiritual. I believe that Jesus Christ knew our physical hunger and thirst. Jesus knew our life on the earth. In our lives, we can be happy and joyful. And we are vulnerable and fragile. Sometimes, we can be totally broken.

Why did God become a human? Our God wants to be with us in our sufferings. When I look at the cross, Jesus Christ in us knows our struggle and our suffering on the earth. Jesus Christ suffers with us, cries with us, even when we cannot feel or cry. We know that the cross is not the ending. Through the resurrection, Jesus Christ showed us that our suffering is not the end. He shows us the hope, our resurrection, too. Today, we have the holy communion. When we eat and drink, let us remember that Jesus Christ is in us, and with us through our life. He knows us. He knows our suffering and our tears on the earth. He also leads us to life, hope, and the resurrection.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God, we dare to come to the church. That's because we are the body of Jesus Christ. You became a human in this world to be with us, to suffer with us, and to show hope. When we eat and drink, please lead us to feel your presence in our life on the earth. We come to your table. In Jesus' name. Amen.