



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast for August 1, 2021*

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### **Scripture for This Sunday:**

- 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a - The prophet Nathan condemns David's behavior through a parable.
- Psalm 51:1-13; A Psalm for those who feel a separation from God. (see prayer below)
- Ephesians 4:1-16 - God has given each one of us different gifts, but we should remember that, though we have individual talents, we are part of one Christian body.
- John 6:24-35 - Jesus chides the crowds: "Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

### **Theme(s) for Reflection**

The scripture for this Sunday clearly calls for individual and corporate responsibility. Each of us has a responsibility to "read and inwardly digest" the word of God as we find it in scripture and live up to our talents. Additionally, we, collectively as Christians, must also act as one body. As Paul urges us in his letter to the Ephesians,

*"...lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift."*

Individual gifts and callings combining, fusing with others in the community. Paul is not just referring to the Christian Community either: this applies to the family of all people.

**Collect for this Sunday:** A prayer for the greater Christian Community. (a "collect" is a prayer to gather the intentions of the people to the focus of worship in a short and to-the-point prayer)

*Let your continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

### **A Prayer Based on Psalm 51** (A great personal prayer)

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.  
Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.  
May it be so. AMEN.*