



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast for August 15, 2021*

---

### **Scripture for This Sunday (Revised Common Lectionary):**

- 1 Kings 2:10-23; 3:3-14 – David has died, and Solomon makes a surprising request to the Lord.
- Psalm 111 - “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.”
- Ephesians 5:15-20 – Further admonitions on Christian behavior. (see “Living Authentically”)
- John 6:51-58 – Jesus explains “I am the bread of life” to his followers and detractors.

### **“Living Authentically”**

*“Be careful then how you live...so do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.”  
(Eph. 15, 17)*

The short reading this week from Ephesians continues to preach to the early Christians about the kind of behavior the followers of “the Way” are expected to embrace.

Jesus had plenty to say about hypocrisy. Today we often hear about why people are put off by the Christian faith: inauthenticity (we might call it hypocrisy.) Many people do not join any faith community or leave one because of “do as I say, not as I do,” role models’ double standards.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, when talking to an Indian church minister, “I like your Christ, I don’t like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ.”

One of the biggest problems which Jesus encountered with some of the Pharisees who confronted him was that they put heavy rules on people when they did not live out those rules themselves. (Matthew 23 is Jesus’ scathing condemnation for people who acted like that.)

We face a similar problem today. The sad thing is we are becoming numb to the atrocious behavior of public figures. But, let us remember this advice from Ephesians: “... be filled with the Spirit, ... giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” AMEN!

### **Collect for this Sunday:**

*Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Please offer prayers for . . .** Wanda’s and Rita’s recovery; continued prayers for those suffering from wildfires in the Western US and Canada; prayers for ill with COVID; pray for God’s blessing for Harry.