



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast for September 5, 2021*

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

- Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 – “a good name”; “whoever sows injustice”; “do not rob the poor”
- Psalm 125 – an encouraging psalm about trusting the Lord
- James 2:1-10, [11-13], 14-17 – discussion of faith and works
- Mark 7:24-37 – Jesus heals outsiders, gentiles

### **Jesus Heals Sickness of Body and Soul**

*“Now Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once.”  
(Mark 1:30)*

Mark uses few words in his Gospel, but for a moment we have a glimpse of Simon’s house. Though it is a house of a poor fisherman, there is no lack of compassion. Upon hearing of the sick woman, Jesus goes to her side and heals her illness. What is the lesson for us? Jesus, the healer, shows no favorites.

**“I am the bread of life” – Communion:** This Sunday service at Raquette Lake Chapel is Communion. A couple of weeks ago we read this in Chapter 6 of John’s Gospel:

*Then Jesus said to them, “Truly, I tell you, the bread of God is that which comes from heaven and gives life to the world. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever.” - John 6:32-34, 51 excerpts (NRSV)*

**“Medicine from heaven”:** Early Christians thought Jesus was talking about Communion in this passage. Of course, at this point in the story of Jesus’ life there wasn’t any Sacrament of Communion. Yet the sacred ritual of Communion started, the breaking of bread. Our faithful ancestors experienced Christ’s Body as truly life-giving. They even spoke of Communion as medicine for what ails us: Medicine from heaven. They believed that partaking of the Bread would heal the frail human condition. To approach Communion was to be diagnosed, admitted, treated, and released to a new regimen of health, body, mind, and soul.

Today, before communion, we have a wellness check, to show if and where we’ve been indifferent or hostile to our neighbors’ needs. If that is the case, the prescription is clear: we need to come to the Communion table again. And again. To take the *Medicine that Heals us*, then go and ...:

*love the Lord our God with all our heart, and with all our soul, and with all our mind. And love our neighbors as ourselves.*

**Please offer prayers for . . .** the people of Afghanistan and Haiti; those suffering from severe weather, from wildfires, and those with COVID; Harry, Wanda, Jerry, Pete.