



## Monday Quotes

### Grain

“When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed.” Maya Angelou

Submitted by **Deb Martin, Oshkosh, WI**

### Field

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." 52 The people then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; 55 for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. John 6:51-55

**Thank you** to Rev. Emily Tveite for sharing a reflection and prayer today!

### Thoughts – Reverend Emily Tveite, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Madison

A few weeks ago, I opened my email to find a message with this subject line: “Watermelon Rescue Squad: Your help is needed.” It was an email from Feeding America, which told the story of a farmer who had called the organization when there were 100 truckloads of watermelon left in his field, unharvested. He didn’t have a buyer for the melons, but he didn’t want them to rot on the vine.

Every year in the United States, over 70 billion pounds of perishable food get thrown away before they even get to grocery stores and restaurants. That’s approaching one pound of fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy, and grains per person each day. Meanwhile, there are millions of Americans who wish desperately that they could find a way to afford a few pieces of broccoli, a bunch of bananas, a handful of string beans, or some other nutritious foods to feed their family.

For six weeks this summer, the lectionary gifts us with texts from John chapter six, in which Jesus performs a miraculous feeding and then enters into a lengthy discussion in which he calls himself the bread of life. The disciples show us, week after week, a deeply human response. They worry that there is not enough, compete over what there is, and grumble over the particular circumstances. In the midst of these human responses, Jesus reminds us again: With God, there is always an abundance. It’s a simple promise that stands in the face of our world’s troubled reality.

When our neighbors long for a morsel of healthy, satisfying food, perhaps we are apt to worry, compete, grumble, or worse, look away. God reminds us that there are a hundred truckloads of watermelon sitting over in that field. There is more than enough. Happy Monday!

### Prayer

Creator of all, you are our bread of life. Grant us the vision to trust in your abundance, and the mission to care for all that you have made.

### Share

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy