

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Love: Unconquered & Uncommon

August 11, 14 & 15, 2021

AS WE GATHER

Today we consider Jesus' claim that He is the bread of life and whoever feeds on His flesh and drinks His blood has eternal life. While this may sound mysterious to us, it was downright offensive to those who first heard these words. The way and wisdom of Jesus are often countercultural and counterintuitive, but He offers us an uncommon life in this life and eternal life in the life to come. This is ours through His love for us and nothing in all creation can separate us from His love.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

"[Jesus] is the head of the body, the church.
He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything he might be preeminent." (Colossians 1:18, ESV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #869 "With the Lord Begin Your Task"

With the Lord begin your task; Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask; Jesus will perfect it.
Every morn with Jesus rise, And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes; Be to Him commended.

Let each day begin with prayer, Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast every care; He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter's might, With His presence cheer you.

With your Savior at your side, Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide, And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows How to stem disaster.

If your task be thus begun With the Savior's blessing,
Safely then your course will run, Toward the promise pressing.
Good will follow everywhere While you here must wander;
You at last the joy will share In the mansions yonder.

Thus, Lord Jesus, every task Be to You commended;
May Your will be done, I ask, Until life is ended.
Jesus, in Your name begun Be the day's endeavor;
Grant that it may well be done To Your praise forever.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

People: Insight is knowing the holy one and seeking justice.

Pastor: The way of the Lord leads to eternal life.

People: The way of the world leads only to death.

Pastor: Through His death and resurrection, Jesus opens the way of eternal life.

People: Jesus has given us the words of eternal life.

Pastor: Jesus gives us the food of eternal life, His body and blood.

People: Come, let us listen to His words, walk His way, and delight in His food.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Though Jesus has come down from the heavens as the bread of life for us, we sometimes listen to other people's words. We sometimes choose to follow those who do not follow Jesus. We sometimes delight in earthly pleasures rather than the daily bread God has given us. Yet, our heavenly Father calls us back to Him, for His way is the way of forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: at times we have lived according to our own wisdom and desires. Too often, we have ignored your words and wisdom. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us on the way of resurrection and eternal life, on account of Jesus. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Jesus, the living bread from heaven, has given His body and shed His blood so that you would be forgiven and have eternal life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. We have eternal life with Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 155

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. **Refrain**

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. **Refrain**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. **Refrain**

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, you are the living bread come down from heaven to give us life eternal. Strengthen us as we follow your wisdom, your way, and your Word, that we remain steadfast in the true faith until your glorious return; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Proverbs 9:1-10*

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. ² She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. ³ She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, ⁴ "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says, ⁵ "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶ Leave your simple ways, and

live, and walk in the way of insight." ⁷ Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. ⁸ Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹ Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 8:31-39, 12:1-2*

³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

4 continued

²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *John 6:51–69*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” ⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.⁶⁰ When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?⁶³ It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” ⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?”

5 continued

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Praise Him, Praise Him”

Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children;

God is love, God is love.

Praise Him, praise Him, all you little children;

God is love, God is love.

Love Him, love Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love.

Love Him, love Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love.

Thank Him, thank Him, all you little children;

God is love, God is love.

Thank Him, thank Him, all you little children;

God is love, God is love.

Serve Him, serve Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love.

Serve Him, serve Him, all you little children; God is love, God is love.

HYMN #941 “We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God”

We praise You and acknowledge You, O God, to be the Lord,
The Father everlasting, by all the earth adored.

To You all angel powers cry aloud, the heavens sing,
The cherubim and seraphim their praises to You bring:
“O holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;
Your majesty and glory fill the heavens and the earth!”

The band of the apostles in glory sing Your praise;
The fellowship of prophets their deathless voices raise.
The martyrs of Your kingdom, a great and noble throng,
Sing with the holy Church throughout all the world this song:
“O all majestic Father, Your true and only Son,
And Holy Spirit, Comforter forever Three in One!”

6 continued

You, Christ, are King of glory, the everlasting Son,
Yet You, with boundless love, sought to rescue ev'ry one:
You laid aside Your glory, were born of virgin's womb,
Were crucified for us and were placed into a tomb;
Then by Your resurrection You won for us reprieve
You opened heaven's kingdom to all who would believe.

You sit in splendid glory, enthroned at God's right hand,
Upholding earth and heaven by forces You command.
We know that you will come as our Judge that final day,
So help Your servants You have redeemed by blood, we pray;
May we with saints be numbered where praises never end,
In glory everlasting. Amen, O Lord, amen!

SERMON "Love: Unconquered & Uncommon"

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, you descend from the heavens to feed your people with the food of eternal life. As we follow you, help us to feed others both with earthly food and with heavenly food. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord, we bring before you all those who have stopped following you. We pray that you would soften their hearts and give us wisdom to share your words of eternal life so that they might follow you again. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord, your ways are not our ways. Your thoughts are not our thoughts. Help us not to seek our own way but to seek your way and your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord, you have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord, strengthen all those who struggle with addictions. Break their bondage and lead them to get the help they need. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord, aid all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in your Church. Embolden them as they bring your Word to your people so that more and more people follow your way. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord, at the beginning of time you said that it was not good for the man to be alone, and so you created woman and instituted marriage. Bless Patrick and Lindsey as they are joined in holy marriage this weekend. We rejoice with Russ and Marlene as they celebrate their 40th anniversary and Jack and RoseMarie who are thankful for 67 years of marriage. Bless all couples to live together in holy love. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, Especially Deanna, Helga, Steve, Kathy, Ray, Versa, Don, Judy, Nancy, Dorothy, Steve, Marilyn, Cindy, Louis, Dawn, Carol, Debbie, Mary, Diane, June, Jerry, Shirley, Sarah, Gladys, Shirley and Sarah. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

People: let me with holy food be fed.

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we commend all these things to your infinite wisdom and guiding, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Page 163

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN #626 "Come, Let Us Eat"

Leader: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,

Congregation: Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Leader: Our Lord's body let us take together,

Congregation: Our Lord's body let us take together.

Leader: Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,

Congregation: Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.

Leader: Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,

Congregation: Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

Leader: In His presence now we meet and rest,

Congregation: In His presence now we meet and rest.

Leader: In the presence of our Lord we gather,

Congregation: In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Leader: Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.

Congregation: Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.

Leader: Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

Congregation: Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

HYMN #622 "Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

Lord Jesus Christ, you have prepared This feast for our salvation;
It is your body and your blood, And at your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to you for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.

Although you did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in your presence they behold your glory, all excelling,
And though your people shall not see your glory and your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning.

Yet, Savior, you are not confined To any habitation;
But you are present even now Here with your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

We eat this bread and drink this cup, your precious Word believing
That your true body and your blood Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true, All things are possible with you,
For you are Lord Almighty.

Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now At once in many places.
I leave to you how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unailing.

Lord, I believe what you have said; Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive your supper, Lord, our Savior, And, truly
grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior That we are thankful for
your grace And day by day may run our race, In holiness increasing.

For your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages! Preserve it,
for in ev'ry place The world against it rages. Grant that this sacrament may be
A blessed comfort unto me When living and when dying.

HYMN #620 "Jesus Comes Today With Healing"

Jesus comes today with healing, Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation, And I hear His invitation:
"Come and taste the blessed feast."

Christ Himself, the priest presiding, Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken, And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

Under bread and wine, though lowly, I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv'n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven, Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.

God descends with heav'nly power, Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving, I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me, With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry tremor, Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

COMMON DISMISSAL

Pastor: Now may this true body and blood of our Lord and Savior,
Jesus Christ, strengthen and preserve you unto life everlasting.

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore you that of your mercy you would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #655 “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth; Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Organist
Director of Parish Music

Dr. Roy Peterson, Concordia University of Wisconsin
Marc Stefanic, Grant Gundersen
Olivia Kukor
Michelle Prince