

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

You Have the Words of Eternal Life

August 14, 2024

AS WE GATHER

Our Lord has argued with His enemies and insists that His flesh is real food and His blood real drink. Even the truth can sometimes be unsettling. The disciples are not sure what to make of it all and watched as many of His followers abandoned Jesus. Peter speaks what is on all our hearts. The way of faith in Christ is not easy, but what choice do we have? Where else is the One who keeps His promises and delivers what He says? Christ alone is the Word of eternal life.

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

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:5-8

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN

“Better Is One Day”

How lovely is Your dwelling place, O Lord Almighty,
For my soul longs and even faints for You.
For here my heart is satisfied within Your presence.
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

**Chorus: Better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house than thousands elsewhere...
Better is one day in Your house, better is one day in Your courts,
Better is one day in Your house than thousands elsewhere,
Than thousands elsewhere.**

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

One thing I ask and I would seek: to see Your beauty,
To find You in the place Your glory dwells

Repeat Chorus

Bridge: My heart and flesh cry out for You, the living God.
Your Spirit's water to my soul.
I've tasted and I've seen. Come once again to me,
I will draw near to You, I will draw near to You, to You....

(music interlude)

Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere
Better is one day, better is one day, better is one day
Than thousands elsewhere...

Repeat Chorus

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Oh, fear the LORD, you His saints;

**People: those who seek the LORD lack no good thing. Blessed is the man who
takes refuge in Him!**

Silence for self-examination

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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.

Pastor: He who began this good work in you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

“10,000 Reasons”

**Chorus: Bless the Lord, O My soul, O My soul; worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul; I’ll worship Your holy name.**

The sun comes up, it’s a new day dawning
It’s time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me.
Let me be singing when the evening comes.

Sing Chorus

You’re rich in love and You’re slow to anger.
Your name is great and Your heart is kind.
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.

Sing Chorus

And on that day, when my strength is failing.
The end draws near, and my time has come;
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending...
Ten thousand years, and then forevermore!

Sing Chorus twice

Ending: Worship Your holy name...
Lord, I’ll worship Your holy name.

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SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18* (“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”) Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel. And they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, ¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” ¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. ¹⁸ And the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Ephesians 5:6–21* (Walk not as the unwise but as the wise in faith.)

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not become partners with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” ¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

ALLELUIA

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Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *John 6:51–69* (“You have the words of eternal life.”)

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. ⁶⁰When 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? ⁶³It 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?” 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.

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“My God is So Great”

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing my God cannot do. (repeat)

The mountains are His, the rivers are His, the stars are His handiwork, too.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty,
there's nothing my God cannot do, for you!
(Repeat entire song)

SERMON HYMN “Family Prayer Song”

Come and fill our homes with your presence;
You alone are worthy of our rev'ence.

**Refrain: As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord;
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.
As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord;
We will serve the Lord.**

Lord, we vow to live holy, bowing our knees to you only; **Refrain**

Staying together, praying together
any storm we can weather, trusting in God's Word.
We need each other, fathers and mothers,
sisters and brothers in harmony and love. **Refrain**

Ending: We will serve the Lord

SERMON “As For Me and My House” Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

(Rise)

OFFERTORY LSB p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.

NICENE CREED

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.

(Be seated)

SONG DURING OFFERING “As the Deer”

As the deer panteth for the water so my soul longeth after Thee
You alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship Thee.

Chorus: You alone are my strength my shield

To You alone may my spirit yield

You alone are my heart's desire

And I long to worship Thee.

You're my friend and You are my brother even though You are a King
I love You more than any other so much more than anything. *Chorus*

I want You more than gold or silver only You can satisfy
You alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye. *Chorus*

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Silence for time of personal prayer

Pastor: Father, we thank you that you have sent the great Good Shepherd who has compassion on His flock. In His name, we lift up our prayers for the family of God and for all people.

People: Bless and be with every nation, tribe, people and language. Comfort them in their sorrows and lead them to faith in Christ. Give them hearts that hunger for the true bread of life.

Pastor: Grant us always, O God, to work for the food that endures to eternal life. Bless the ministry of this congregation in our community, that many may embrace Jesus as the Christ and find salvation in Him alone.

People: Bless all missionaries around the world and grant them success in sharing the gospel than many would be saved. We pray especially for our Together in Mission Partner, Pastor Church Ferry and family. Guide, guard and protect them always.

Pastor: O Lord, our God, we pray for your blessing upon all homes and schools, especially the schools, universities and seminaries of our church and our own St. Paul's Lutheran School.

People: Bless all places where your people gather to teach and learn your Word, and help us to remember that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we rejoice in the growth of Christ's kingdom, especially for the baptism of Elizabeth Anne Kornov this weekend.

People: Bless her parents, Austin and Jordyn, to raise her in the faith, to know the love and grace of Jesus and abide in it as a family of faith.

Pastor: Almighty God, you place men in positions of authority for the sake of order. Grant wisdom to Joseph, our president; Tony, our governor; our judges; those in law enforcement; and all who hold offices of public trust in our land.

People: Strengthen them to serve with integrity, be honest in all things, and to act not for selfish gain but serve according to your will for the benefit of all people.

Pastor: Bestow your power of healing upon the sick, especially Ralph, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Ruth, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Danielle, Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Vern, Cathy, Shirley and Sarah, that in accordance with your will, they may give thanks to your name.

People: Give your Spirit of hope to the depressed, and the lonely. Strengthen their faith and assure them of your presence in all circumstances.

Pastor: Father in heaven, comforter of all those who grieve, we pray for the family and friends of Elizabeth Grayson who has passed on to glory. Fill them with hope and peace.

People: Fill us all with your Spirit, that we may always look to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Pastor: Holy Father, your Son assures us that His flesh is true food and His blood true drink, and that those who feed on Him will live forever because of Him.

People: By your Spirit, prepare our hearts to welcome Him as He comes to us in this Holy Supper, that we may rejoice in His promises and depart in His peace.

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before you, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to you alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;

Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of your name.

Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;

Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;

Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #813

“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;

Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong As ocean's surging praise,

Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth

Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. **Refrain**

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,

Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng.

Refrain

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,

As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. **Refrain**

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;

The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:

The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

“I Am the Bread of Life”

I Am the Bread of Life, you who come to Me shall not hunger;
And who believe in Me shall not thirst.
No one can come to Me unless the Father beckons.

**Chorus: And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
And I will raise you up on the last day.**

The bread that I will give is the flesh for the life of the world,
And if you eat of this bread,
You shall live forever, you shall live forever. *Chorus*

Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man
And drink of His blood
And drink of His blood you shall not have life within you *Chorus*

I am the Resurrection, I am the Life,
If you believe in Me,
Even though you die, you shall live forever *Chorus*

Yes, Lord I believe that You are the Christ.
The Son of God
Who... have come... into... the... world *Chorus*

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Of your goodness, O Lord, you have bestowed upon us the bread that nourishes our bodies and the bread of life that nurtures us to life everlasting. Grant that what you have begun in us you may also bring to fulfillment on that day when distance shall no longer divide us and we shall be one people in Your presence forevermore; through Jesus Christ, 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

“Find Us Faithful”

We’re pilgrims on the journey of the narrow road,
And those who’ve gone before us line the way.
Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary,
Their lives a stirring testament to God’s sustaining grace.

Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us run the race not only for the prize,
But as those who’ve gone before us,
Let us leave to those behind us,
The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.

**Chorus 1: Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful,
May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe,
And the lives we live inspire them to obey.
Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.**

**After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone,
And our children sift through all we’ve left behind,
May the clues that they discover and the mem’ries they uncover
Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find.**

Chorus 2: Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful,
May the fire of our devotion light their way.
May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe,
And the lives we live inspire them to obey...to obey....

Repeat Chorus 1

Ending: Oh, may all who come behind us find us faithful.

Preacher & Liturgist Wednesday
Preacher Saturday & Sunday
Liturgist Saturday & Sunday
Lector
Special Music

Pastor Michael Schumacher
Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Debbie Nier
Praise Band