

## THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

You Have the Words of Eternal Life

August 17 & 18, 2024

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### 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 #818

#### “In Thee Is Gladness”

In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus sunshine of my heart.  
By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art.  
Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest;  
Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia!  
Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining, Dying or living To Thee are cleaving;  
Naught can us sever: Alleluia!

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Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices;  
All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness,  
Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him  
Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

(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

LSB p. 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –  
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

## 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)

## 9:00 BAPTISM SONG #593 "See This Wonder in the Making"

See this wonder in the making: God Himself this child is taking  
As a lamb safe in His keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.

Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens  
And the Father beams, "Beloved, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"

Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,  
God, into Your arms we place them, With Your love and peace embrace them.

Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,  
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.

9:00 BAPTISM of Elizabeth Anne Kornov

LSB p. 268

## ✠ 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. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, <sup>14</sup>"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. <sup>15</sup>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." <sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.)

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not become partners with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." <sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,

<sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

(Rise)

**ALLELUIA** LSB p. 156

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.**

<sup>51</sup>I 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.” <sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup>So 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.

<sup>54</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup>For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

<sup>56</sup>Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.

<sup>57</sup>As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This 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.” <sup>59</sup>Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

<sup>63</sup>It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have

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spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But 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.) <sup>65</sup>And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” <sup>66</sup>After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup>and 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’rence.

**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**

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**SERMON**

**“As For Me and My House”**

**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

(Rise)

**OFFERTORY**

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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.

**5:00 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)

**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

LSB p. 208

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!

#### 5:00 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

LSB p. 210

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 #526 "You Are the Way; Through You Alone"

You are the way; through You alone Can we the Father find;  
In You, O Christ, has God revealed His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone True wisdom can impart;  
You only can inform the mind And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,  
And those who put their trust in You Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life; Grant us that way to know,  
That truth to keep, that life to win Whose joys eternal flow.

### 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**

## HYMN #689

### "Let Me Be Thine Forever"

Let me be Thine forever, My faithful God and Lord;  
Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word.  
Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness,  
And for such grace forever Thy holy name I'll bless.

Lord Jesus, my salvation, My light, my life divine,  
My only consolation, O make me wholly Thine!  
For Thou hast dearly bought me With blood and bitter pain.  
Let me, since Thou hast sought me, Eternal life obtain.

And Thou, O Holy Spirit, My comforter and guide,  
Grant that in Jesus' merit I always may confide,  
Him to the end confessing Whom I have known by faith.  
Give me Thy constant blessing And grant a Christian death.

## 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 #411 “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”**

I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

**Refrain: In Him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of Righteousness, shine on my path,

And show me the way to the Father. **Refrain**

I’m looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.

When we have run with patience the race,

We shall know the joy of Jesus. **Refrain**

Preacher

Liturgist

Lectors

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen

Marc Stefanic, Grant Gundersen

Deaconess Carole King