



Sunday, August 25, 2024

Lectionary 21, Year B

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

*(Please be aware that as we stream this service to a live audience you may appear on camera when you are worshiping with us. We welcome those who attend online and are part of our worshiping community! Please respond with the words in **bold print** and stand, as you are able at the places marked with an *.)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence for Reflection

God, our provider, **help us.**

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God:

**in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.**

*Opening Hymn..... “Earth and All Stars!”.....ELW #731
Verses 1-3

Earth and All Stars!



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
 4 Class - rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test - tubes!
 5 Knowl - edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
 Ath - lete and hand! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain
 God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert E. Brokering, b. 1926
 Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987
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***Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

First ReadingEphesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia

1* 2

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

3 4

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

** May be sung in canon*

Music: Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: © 1983 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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*Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

*Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

*Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you O Christ.***

Silence for Reflection

Children’s Sermon.....Keith Weatherford

Sermon.....Keith Weatherford

Hymn of the Day..... “Blessed Assurance”.....ELW 638

Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

*** Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***Prayers of Intercession**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

Prayer Response (each portion of the prayers ends with these words):

Merciful God, **Receive our prayer**



***Blessing of the Backpacks**

All Students and teachers in the congregation are invited to come forward.

Loving God, be with these students, teachers, and school staff. Be with them and help them as they begin a new year of learning, teaching, supporting and growing.

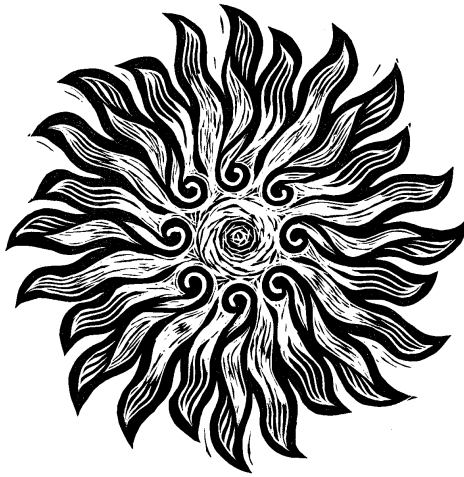
As we get ready to start another year in school,
we ask your blessing on these backpacks,
and especially on these children who will wear them.
As they do the very important work of being students, bless them with:
eagerness to learn, that their world may grow large;
respect for teachers and students,
that they may form healthy relationships;
love for nature,
that they may become caretakers of your creation;
happiness when learning is easy
and stick-to-it-iveness when it is hard;
faith in Jesus as their best teacher and closest friend.
God of wisdom, your Son came among us as a teacher.

Send your blessing on all who are engaged in the work of education:
give them clearness of vision and freshness of thought,
and enable them so to train the hearts and minds of their students
that they may grow in wisdom
and be prepared to face the challenges of life;
We ask that you would protect these, your own children.
Watch over them and keep them safe in their schools and
as they travel to and from school.
As they learn, help them also to discover
the different gifts that you have given each one of them
to be used in your work in the world.

**As they hear the many voices that will fill their days,
help them to listen most carefully for your voice,
the one that tells them you will love them always,
no matter what.
We ask this in Jesus' name.**

Amen.





***Sharing of the Peace**

...Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” (John 20:19)

As Christ welcomed everyone, let us open our hearts and lives and be like Christ to everyone we meet. The peace of the Lord be with you,
And also with you.

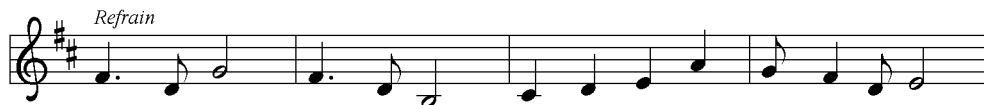
(The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace and may say “Peace be with you” or similar words.)

Offering

(An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need, and the communion table is set.)

Offertory Hymn..... “Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup”ELW 492

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup



Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - dant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.



Refrain
in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
Those who seek the Lord will lack noth-ing; taste, and have your fill.
Rise to tell God's great-ness for - ev - er, won-drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34
Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young
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***Offering Prayer**

Jesus, Bread of life,
**you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.
Amen.**

***Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

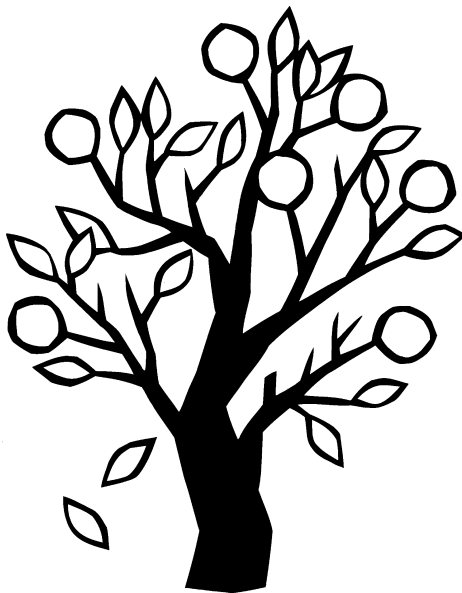
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.



***Words of Institution**

Holy, mighty, and merciful God, in great love you sent Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the will of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord: to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

***Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

***Invitation to Communion**

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

(We celebrate open communion and all who are baptized are welcome to receive the forgiving and gracious presence of Christ in communion. Those who prefer not to commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.)

Distribution Music.....Gretchen Munding

***Prayer After Communion**

Jesus, Bread of Life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

***Benediction**

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us,
and journeys with us,
be upon you now and forever.

Amen

*Sending Hymn..... “Earth and All Stars ” verses 4-5ELW 731

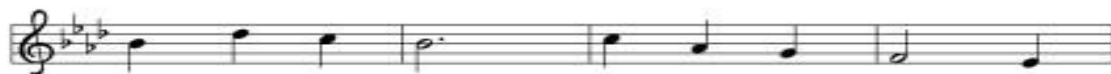
Earth and All Stars!



1	Earth and all stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet and pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!
3	En - gines and steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!
4	Class - rooms and labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test - tubes!
5	Knowl - edge and truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!



Sing	to the Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the Lord	a	new	song!
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Sing	to the Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the Lord	a	new	song!



Hail,	wind, and rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp,	lute, and lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone	and beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!
Ath - lete	and hand!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!
Daugh - ter	and son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!



Sing	to the Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the Lord	a	new	song!
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Refrain



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

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 MUSIC: EARTH AND ALL STARS, DAVID N. JOHNSON, 1922-1987
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***Dismissal**

Go in Peace. You are the Body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude.

In our prayers: Linda McDonald, Susan Olson, Mike McDonald, Paula Blessinger, Diane Evans, Isla Johnson, Jeff Wahl, Christina Tielking, Tammy Tetrault, Susan Boettcher, Ken Downing, Mark and Renee Slocum, Rosita Moe, Bruce Gottwig, Bob Sorensen, Deb Berg, Meg Biggs and family, Richard Bomar, Jeff Shirley, Jeremy Stockstad, Tatiana Ceaicovschi, Randy Holmes, Kamila Ruth Baker, Vicki Alpiner, Brent Bushnell, Will and Peyton Johnson, Tom Andersen, Sally Indreland.

Tami Rhodes' family as they grieve the death of her mother, Doris Bishop

For those who have died and now rest in God's merciful care: All the Saints in Heaven

For those in residential living centers, extended care or homebound: Mary Marty, Rev. Wayne Olsen, Rosita Moe, Esther Fuehrer, Julie Wolff, Adeline Rasmussen, Susan DeBree, Jimmie McGee

For those who are deployed and getting ready to deploy: Evan Ceaicovschi, Raffy Suchikul, Maggie Smiedala

Missionaries: Missionaries around the world, Willie Langdji in Cameroon

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Thursday August 29, 2024

Stewardship Team meeting at noon

Sunday, September 1, 2024

9:30 am-Worship w/Holy Communion

10:30 am-Fellowship

Monday, September 2, 2024

Office closed for Labor Day

Tuesday, September 3, 2024

Caring Friends meeting at noon

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

WELCA Fall Luncheon 12-1

Wednesday September 11, 2024

Memorial Committee meeting at noon

Midweek Connection Potluck begins 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 12, 2024

Touchmark service at 2 pm

Book Club 6 pm

Choir Rehearsal 7 pm

Sunday September 15, 2024

Kick Off Sunday; Pie Social

New Testament Bible Study 11:45

Tuesday September 17, 2024

New Testament Bible Study noon

Wednesday September 18, 2024

Worship at 6:30

Deadlines for bulletin announcements– each Wednesday noon

Deadlines for Herald - 25th of each month

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Thank you! Thanks to your God-given Spirit of generosity, we have all the school supplies to fill 200 school kits for Lutheran World Relief next spring. Thanks be to God!

August Social Ministry Please help support our neighbors at Helena Middle School through Bob's Pantry. In addition to collecting food and snacks, your monetary donations will help to stock their pantry with items for students in need. Please check the box on donation envelopes for Social Ministry or note in the memo line on your check

Midweek and Sunday School All are welcome to join us on September 11th at 6:30 pm for a Midweek Connection Potluck Kick-off (and birthday celebration!) Come for some "Space of Grace" with your SJLC Community and hear all about our lineup for our Wednesdays for the fall. There is something for all ages Wednesday evenings! We will also spend a few minutes going over Confirmation Class (Affirmation of Baptism) requirements and class is open to all 6th-8th grade students. Our weekly Sunday School class that meets during Sunday worship will resume on Sunday, Sept. 15. Class is open to all elementary aged students. We have a need for more Sunday School teachers to be on call to sub. Our curriculum is fun, engaging, and easy to step into. Please speak to Gretchen if you are interested and available to help.

Ministering in Worship

Preaching & Presiding

Keith Weatherford

Worship Musician

Gretchen Munding

Choir Director

Connie Conley

Technology

Angela Conley

Acolytes

Ushers

Lector

Joy Edgar

Communion Servers

**Joy Edgar, Ben Spiger
Kendra Wilde, Jennifer Wintersteen**

Prayer Station

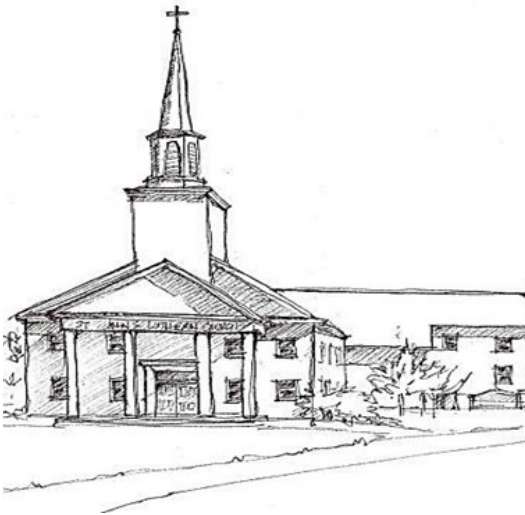
Lorrie Vennes

Altar Guild

Karen Doig, Laura Nachtsheim, Mait Board



New Option for online giving. Please use the code here for a mobile device online giving. Questions on how this works? Please contact the church office.



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