



“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.” *John 6:51*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 16, 2015

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Rev. Robert Zimmerman, Pastor
Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost – August 16, 2015

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

PRELUDE: *We Who Once Were Dead* – Kenneth T. Kosche

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,
**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
 Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
 and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
 As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
 and by his authority,
 I therefore declare to you
 the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
 in the name of the Father,
 and of the + Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *We Who Once Were Dead



All: We who once were dead now live, ful - ly know - ing Je - sus
 All: We were lost in night, but you sought and found us. Give us
 Men: He be - came our bread; Je - sus died to save us. On him
 All: Let us share the pain you en - dured in dy - ing; we shall
 Women: Je - sus, you were dead, but you rose and, liv - ing, made your-
 All: This is your de - sign; in this meal we meet you. Be our



as our head. Life is o - ver - flow - ing when he breaks the bread.
 strength to fight; death is all a - round us. Je - sus, be our light.
 we are fed, eat - ing what he gave us, ris - ing from the dead.
 then re - main li - ving, death de - fy - ing, we shall rise a - gain.
 - self our bread, in your good - ness giv - ing life though we were dead.
 bread and wine, Je - sus, we en - treat you. This shall be our sign.

***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.



*GLORY TO GOD



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Ever-loving God,

your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world.

Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,

⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!”

To those without sense she says,

⁵“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 34: 9-14

1. Fear God, you cho - sen ones, and then your wants and
2. Come, chil - dren, lis - ten to my words, and I will
3. Your tongue must keep from e - vil speech, your lips from

needs will be sup - plied; young li - ons hun - ger,
teach you ho - ly fear; who seeks to know pros -
ly - ing words must cease; turn back from e - vil

but God's own lack noth - ing, nor will be de - nied.
- per - i - ty, de - sires long life, and holds life dear?
and do good, seek and pur - sue the way of peace.

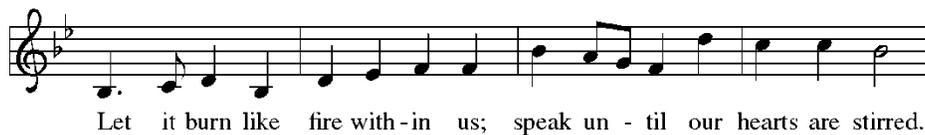
SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL READING: John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,]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."

⁵²The Jews 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.

⁵⁴Those 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.⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them.⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.⁵⁸ This 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY: *By Your Hand You Feed Your People

1. By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav - en's bread.
2. In this meal we taste your sweet - ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.
3. Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.

For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:
Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.
In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:

Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,

giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

***NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With confidence in God's compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God's creation. God of generosity, you came to live among us in communion with us. We pray for all congregations, that they be places of welcome and belonging where those who seek you find a home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creativity, you have given us a rich earth to provide all sorts of nourishment. Grant us the wisdom to be good stewards of this vast and wondrous home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of peace, we pray for the nations of the world. Give the world's leaders the wisdom that they need to seek peace and pursue justice. Give citizens the courage to raise up such leaders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for all who are in need—both the needs we understand and the hungers that are beyond our comprehension. Fill all yearning souls with the true satisfaction that comes from you. Especially we pray for Denise, Frieda, Jim, Raymond, Wanda Jean, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of wisdom, we pray for all those who are returning to school: students, teachers, and staff. Give them the joy of learning from each other by sharing their gifts and questions. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, we remember all the faithful who have come before us. Help us to remember, as they did, that those who seek the Lord will lack nothing that is good. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #483: Here Is Bread

(Please stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward.)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you,
and you open your hand in blessing.

Fill us with good things at your table,
that we may come to the help of all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

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.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God,

our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen.**

***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.**

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMN #488: *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in grace.

Amen.

*POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Wise and generous God,

we thank you that at this holy table

you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life.

Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor

and call others to your feast;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

Almighty and merciful God,

Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,

bless, preserve, and keep you

this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

*SENDING SONG #689: *Praise and Thanksgiving*

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Praeludium in A* – J.S. Bach

The flowers this week are given by John and Ruth Ann Tully in memory of their parents and grandparents.

9:00 am

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer

Communion Assistant: Christine Dishong

Acolyte:

Usher: John Tully

Attendance Last Week: 59

Attendance last year: 66

Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,755.44

Last Week's Giving: \$ 1,554.00

YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$ 90,239.82

YTD Receipts: \$84,723.53

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