



“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
13th Sunday after Pentecost – August 18, 2024**

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Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshiping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*GATHERING SONG *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom (ACS 971)*



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when
2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the
3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,
mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,
seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the
full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes
bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.
root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.
come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

We admit our sins
Please pray with me.

Jesus, you spread out your arms to welcome the world.
And then you tell us to feed them.

But we struggle with your command.

We find the seed of doubt growing in our hearts:

What is our compassion among so much pain?

What is our small kindness in a system of injustice?

What is one act of reconciliation in a divided society?

How can so little food feed so many hungry mouths?

We have simply forgotten: when you ask us to feed the world, you always provide the bread.

Even when we have tasted the bread you multiply; even when we gather your leftovers, we still find ourselves between your wondrous power and our sinful reality.

We plead for God's forgiveness
So we ask for your forgiveness.

When you call for our faith, forgive our unbelief.

As you prepare our heavenly dwelling, forgive our earthly worries.

When you offer us armfuls of food that satisfies, forgive our appetite for unhealthy fare.

When your gospel challenges us, forgive our irritable complaints.

You are patient with us even when we prove fussy and doubtful, reluctant and argumentative.

How often do we act this way just because we are hungry?

We receive God's immediate forgiveness

People of God, Jesus knows you are hungry for forgiveness.

So Jesus has set our table with bread from heaven; and a feast to heal the soul.

You are forgiven. God leavens you with eternal goodness. Jesus gives you forgiveness enough to share. And the Holy Spirit fills your life with the flavor of transformation.

You are forgiven.

God, give us this bread always.

Canticle of Praise *This Is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

Refrain



hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of



vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -



le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the



Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Living Bread, You are the answer to our hunger. You are as simple and near to us as a loaf of bread on the kitchen counter; you are as vast and transcendent as manna scattered on the ground. Invite us deeper into your mystery. Let us taste the life you offer. Transform our hunger into action, our eating into praise. Amen.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from Proverbs.

- ¹ Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- ² She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
- ³ She 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.
- ⁶ Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14

Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses

- ⁹ Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
- ¹⁰ **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**
- ¹¹ Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you reverence for the LORD.
- ¹² **Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**
- ¹³ Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.
- ¹⁴ **Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

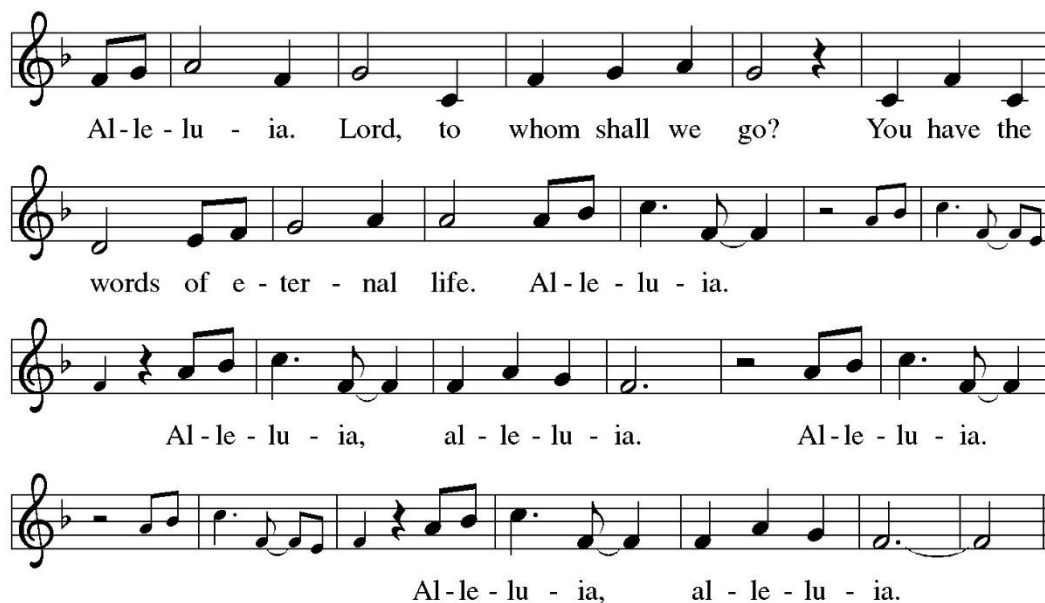
A reading from Ephesians.

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



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL READING: John 6:51-58**

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.”

⁵² The 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. ⁵⁴ Those 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

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (ELW 489)*
(Blue prayer cards are collected)

1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heavenly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Refrain

Be thankful!

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, and rejoice!
Bless the one whose grace unbounded is our joy.

2 Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation. *Refrain*

3 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you. *Refrain*

***APOSTLES' CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the 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.*

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort, especially Bob, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Ellen, Ruth, Sally, Katie, Debi, Anne, those on our prayer list, all whom we remember in our hearts and all who suffer in any way. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God and those on the hearts and minds of this congregation this day (*blue prayer cards are read*). Receive these and the prayers for which we do not yet have words into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW 689)

Rise on 4th verse



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -



liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will



or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

*OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.

It is indeed right and salutary
that we should at all times and in all places
offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord,
through Christ our Lord;
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 the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

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

God of all, mighty and merciful,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We thank you and praise you
for you have satisfied the hunger of your people in every age:
from the beginning you drew up food from the earth
and humankind from the soil,
filling our nostrils full of your Breath.
You ate the fatted calf with Abraham and Sarah,
and answered their deep longing for a child;
you sustained your chosen people with manna
as you led them toward the promised land;
you sent prophets to answer the cry for bread and for justice;
and in fullness of time,
you sent your own Son, Jesus Christ, the Bread of Heaven;

Who, in the night in which he was handed over, 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 in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
The 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 death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory to share with us the great and promised feast.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
And stir in us a hunger for justice and thirst for compassion.
Open wide you hand and satisfy our deep desire-
feed us with the Bread that is you.
All honor and glory to you, almighty God, now and forever.
Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
**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**

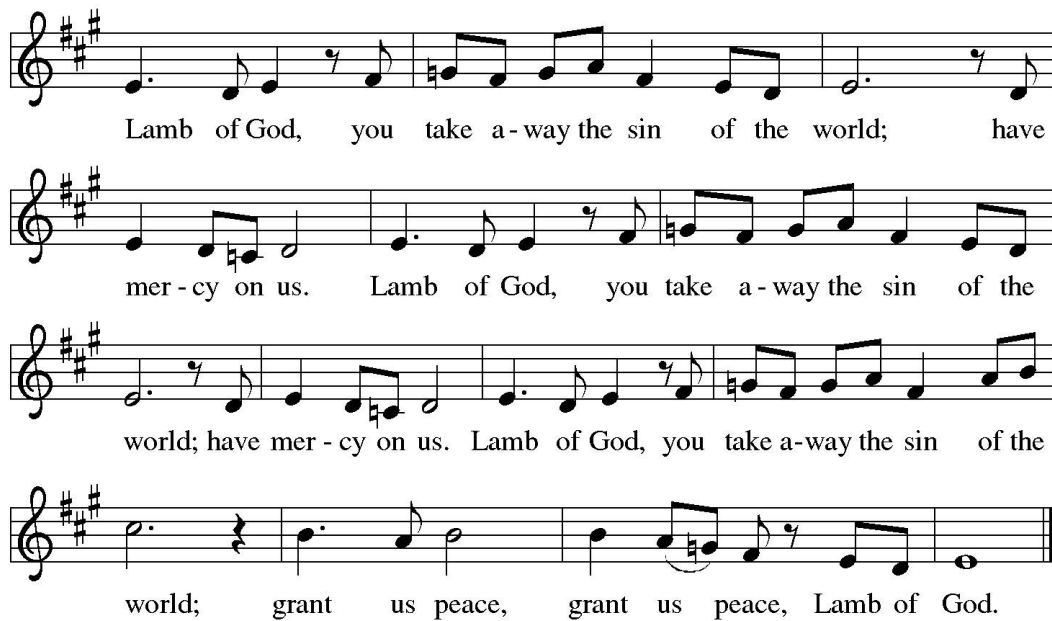
*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Taste and see that the Lord is good!
Come!

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. In response to Jesus' invitation, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *There is a Longing in Our Hearts* (ACS 1078)

Refrain — All

There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -

veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our

hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

Leader or All

1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our

hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:

Refrain

be near; hear our prayer, O God.

COMMUNION HYMN *Come, Let Us Eat* (ELW 491)



- 1 Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,
- 2 Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,
- 3 In Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest,
- 4 Rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word,



come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.
in Je - sus' pres - ence now we meet and rest.
rise, then, to spread a - broad God's might - y word.



Our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er,
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er,
In the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er,
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom,



our Lord's bod - y let us take to - geth - er.
Je - sus' blood poured let us drink to - geth - er.
in the pres - ence of our Lord we gath - er.
Je - sus ris - en will bring in the king - dom.

***POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

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.

***BLESSING**

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

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *I Love to Tell the Story* (ELW 661)**



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love.
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard
 And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.
 I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

Refrain



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

***DISMISSAL**

[Jesus said,] "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry..."

John 6:35

Fed and nourished, go in peace and love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

**The flowers on the altar today were provided by Dave and Cindy Knauff
to the glory of God.**

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister:

Acolyte: Anna K

Young Reader: Abby C

Ushers:

Greeters:

Offering: Jules K and Abby C

Notes for the day's texts:

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Today's Music

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom. Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947, Music: Donna Kasbohm, b. 1933. Pilgrim Press/United Church Press.

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness. Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, stanzas; Esther Bertieaux, b. 1944, refrain; tr. composite, Music: Evy Lucío Cordova, b. 1934. Augsburg Fortress / PeerMusic International .

Praise and Thanksgiving. Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt., Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version. Oxford University Press (New York) / Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

There is a Longing in Our Hearts. Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955, Music: Anne Quigley. OCP (Oregon Catholic Press).

Come, Let Us Eat. Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt., Music: Billema Kwillia, adapt. Augsburg Fortress / Lutheran World Federation .

I Love to Tell the Story. Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911, Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936. Public Domain. Liturgy words and music taken from SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

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Next Week's Readings

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 *Joshua calls all Israel to serve the Lord*

Psalm 34:15-22 *The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous*

Ephesians 6:10-20 *Put on the armor of God*

John 6:56-69 *The bread of eternal life*