

“Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life.”

- John 6:47-48

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
12th Sunday after Pentecost – August 11, 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 AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

*GATHERING SONG *You Are Holy* (ELW 525) (sing twice through)



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

***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.

God of daily bread and living bread, we are hungry! We're hungry to feast on what we've only tasted: Perfect justice. Perfect mercy. Eternal and abundant life. Satisfy our hunger, Bread of Life, and sharpen our appetite ⁹ for the things which you desire. Fill this world with your life. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:4-8

A reading from 1 Kings.

⁴ [Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again.⁷ The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."⁸ He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:1-8

Read responsively – congregation reads bold printed verses

¹ I will bless the LORD at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

² **I will glory in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear and rejoice.

³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt God's name together.

⁴ **I sought the LORD, who answered me**
and delivered me from all my terrors. R

⁵ Look upon the LORD and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.

⁶ **I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me**
and saved me from all my troubles.

⁷ The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD
and delivers them.

⁸ **Taste and see that the LORD is good;**
happy are they who take refuge in God!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25—5:2

A reading from Ephesians.

²⁵ So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶ Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷ and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸ Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. ²⁹ Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹ Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³² and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1} Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ² and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

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 6:35, 41-51**

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵ Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

⁴¹ Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” ⁴² They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” ⁴³ Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. ⁴⁶ Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷ Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸ I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹ Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰ This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *As We Gather at Your Table* (ELW 522)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected)



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

***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.*

Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill, 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.

We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places. 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 *Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal* (ELW 464)

Rise on 4th verse



- 1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Je - sus, feed us.
- 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Je - sus, feed us.
- 3 Grant for - give - ness in the feast— Je - sus, feed us—
- 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Je - sus, feed us.



Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
Make us one, our hope re - store; feed us with your love.
for the great - est and the least; feed us with your love.
Save God's chil - dren ev - 'ry - where; feed us with your love.

*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 *Taste and See* (ELW 493)

Refrain – All

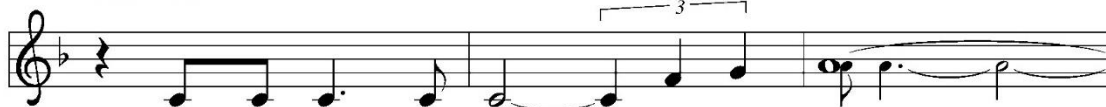


Taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord. Oh,



taste and see, taste and see the good-ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Leader or All



1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
 2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with . . me.
 3 Wor-ship . . . the Lord, all you peo-ple.



Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;
 To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.
 You'll want for noth - ing . . . if you ask.



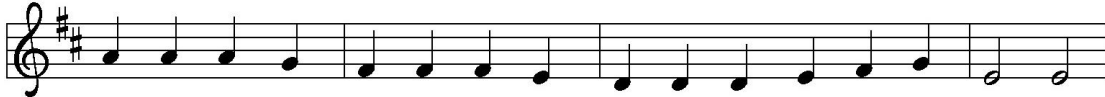
my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord;
 I called the Lord, . . who an - swered me;
 Taste and see . . . that the Lord is good;

Refrain



for God has been so good to me.
 from all my trou - bles I was set free.
 in God we need put all our trust.

COMMUNION HYMN *In the Singing* (ELW 466)



1 In the sing - ing, in the si - lence, in the hands ex - pect - ant, o - pen,
2 In the ques - tion, in the an - swer, in the mo - ment of ac - cept - ance,



in the bless - ing, in the break - ing, in your pres - ence at this ta - ble,
in the heart's cry, in the heal - ing, in the cir - cle of your peo - ple,



Refrain
Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the wine of grace;



Je - sus Christ, Je - sus Christ, be the bread of peace.

***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.

***BLESSING OF A NEW SEMESTER**

Those who are going to college, apprenticeships, or other learning endeavors beyond high school this fall are invited forward to receive a blessing.

We give thanks for the gift of learning and pray for God's guidance in the educational journeys of these people.

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

Teach us your ways, O God.

Take knowledge rather than gold, for all that you may desire cannot compare with wisdom.

Teach us your ways, O God.

Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Teach us your ways, O God.

People of St. John, as their home congregation, do you promise to support these people, take an interest in their futures, be with them in their celebration and sadness, and welcome them whenever they return to St John?

In God's love, we support them.

Do you promise to faithfully pray for these people, placing their future into God's loving hands as they continue to learn and grow and make their choices?

In God's love, we pray for them.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities, especially those attended by these young people, that they may be lively places

for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom.

Bless these students as they embark on the educational journey before them.

Grant them wisdom in the decisions they make,

faith in your abiding presence,

and strength and courage as they continue to explore the opportunities before them.

Help them to study diligently and to grow in all that is good.

Grant that those who teach and those who learn

may find you to be the source of all faith, hope, love, and truth,

and may they live to the praise of your glory both now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises* (ELW 535)**

Refrain – sung twice each time



Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -
Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais - es, all our



bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa
hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your



ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *End*
prais - es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.



1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread,
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain



I am wine, I am bread, give to all who thirst and hun - ger.
strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos - pel.

***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 to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

**The flowers on the altar today were provided by Todd and Katie Niklewicz
in celebration of Emma's 15th birthday and Ava's 11th birthday.**

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister:

Acolyte:

Ushers:

Greeters:

Offering:

Notes for the day's texts:

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.

Today's Music

You Are Holy. Text: Per Harling, b. 1948, Music: Per Harling. Augsburg Fortress.

As We Gather at Your Table. Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, Music: Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855–1932. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP) / Public Domain.

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal. Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943; Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, Music: Ray Makeever; arr. Rusty Edwards. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Taste and See. Text: James E. Moore Jr., b. 1951, based on Ps. 34, Music: James E. Moore Jr. GIA Publications, Inc.

In the Singing. Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931, Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926. Hope Publishing Company (ASCAP).

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises. Text: South African; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984, Music: South African; arr. Freedom Is Coming. Walton Music / Public Domain.

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Next Week's Readings

Proverbs 9:1-6 *Invited to dine at wisdom's feast*

Psalms 34:9-14 *Those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good*

Ephesians 5:15-20 *Filled with the Spirit, sing thanks to God*

John 6:51-58 *Christ the true food and drink*