

*“<sup>68</sup>...“Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”*

*-John 6:68-69*

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – August 22, 2021**

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David Brauer, Lay Minister

Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*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? Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin. Those who are able, please rise when there is an \*, congregational responses are in bold.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

**13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – August 22, 2021**

*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.*

**PRELUDE:** *Prelude in G – J.S. Bach*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of all mercy and consolation,  
come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.  
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin,  
receive your forgiveness,  
and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ,  
our Savior and 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.  
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 HYMN #557 – Awake My Soul, and With the Sun**

**\*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.**

**\*KYRIE**

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for  
hun - gry and the poor; that  
friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

**\*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.

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

*In the Near East, covenant means “agreement” or “alliance.” It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

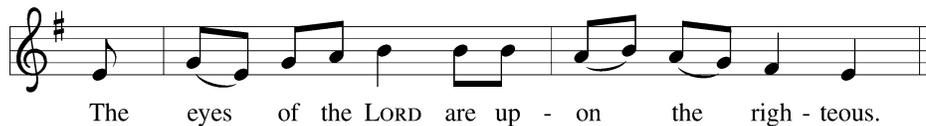
<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, 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 ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along 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.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 34: 15-22**



<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,  
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

<sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed. R**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

<sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe | all their bones;  
not one of them | shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished. R

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 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.*

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray 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. <sup>19</sup>Pray 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, <sup>20</sup>for 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

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: 56-69

The holy gospel according to John.

**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?” [Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>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.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.*

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <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 that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But 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. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

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

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **BLESSING OF BACKPACKS**

**P** God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day.

**C:** **We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas.**

**P:** We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled.

**C:** **We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again.**

**P:** Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers.

**P:** Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect.

May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and in Sunday School.

**C:** **May they be guided by your love.**

**P:** We pray also for teachers and staff and administrators of our schools. Guide them in their work and fill their hearts with love for each student.

Fill them with patience and perseverance, the knowledge of your presence and love, and the peace that comes with knowing that their work will change lives and change the world.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. **Amen.**

### **SERMON**

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY #810 – O Jesus, I Have Promised**

#### **APOSTLE’S CREED**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s 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**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence, especially Dan, Maizy, Bob, Katie, Marcia, Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Sally, Chuck, Henry, Harry, Roy, Ruth, Pastor Storm, Bill, Karen, and Ellen, for those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us, O Lord, to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor continues. Bless all who have taken on extra responsibility and fill them with a sense of your love and presence. We pray in your Son's name, Jesus Christ our Lord. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**\*OFFERING HYMN #474 – *Bread of Life from Heaven (vs. 1, 2, 5, - \*stand for verse 5)***

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.  
Holy God, gracious and merciful,  
you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation.  
Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way,  
that all may know your care;  
and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**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, 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:



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.

*The bread and wine have been consecrated by Pastor David Saylor.*

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,  
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,  
and the promise of his coming again,  
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,  
not as we ought but as we are able;  
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving  
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,  
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,  
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ  
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,  
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,  
may be formed to live as your holy people  
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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**

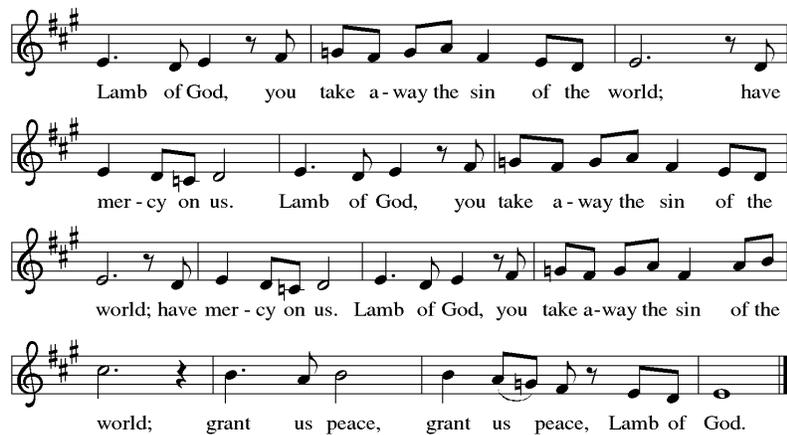
Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
Come!

*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. Gluten free wafers are available.*

**COMMUNION**

The body and blood of Christ are given and shed for you. **Amen.**

**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.

**\*COMMUNION HYMN #485 – *I Am the Bread of Life***

**\*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.

We give you thanks, almighty God,

that you have refreshed us

through the healing power of this gift of life.

In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift,

in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another;

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

The blessing of the living God,

Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,

surround and sustain you,

keep you from harm,

and fill you with courage.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG #731 – *Earth and All Stars***

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE: *Postlude in G* – J.S. Bach**

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**The altar flowers are given by Erin Weaver in celebration of the birthdays of Denis Bishop, Denise Hager and Brentley Hager.**

**9:00 am**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Missy Kramer**

**Communion Assistant:**

**Acolyte:**

**Attendance Last Week:**

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