"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." -John 6:68 -

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Virtual Worship - August 22, 2021

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #14040-ELW Portions from *Sundays & Seasons 2021*

Setting Seven

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



Confession and Forgiveness

- **P.** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ⁺ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
- C. Amen
- P. Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

- C. 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
- **P.** 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.

C. Amen

Gathering Hymn

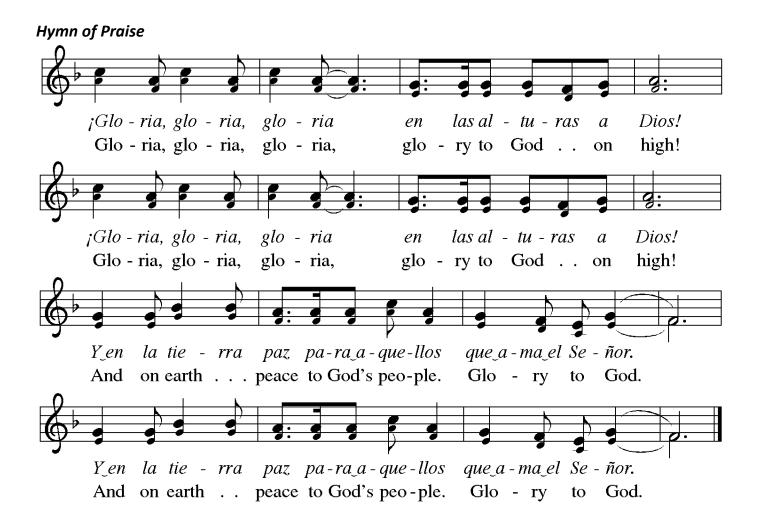
You Are the Way

ELW 758

Greeting

- P. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
- C. And also with you.





Prayer of the Day

P. Let us pray

C. 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 life in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

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. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel:

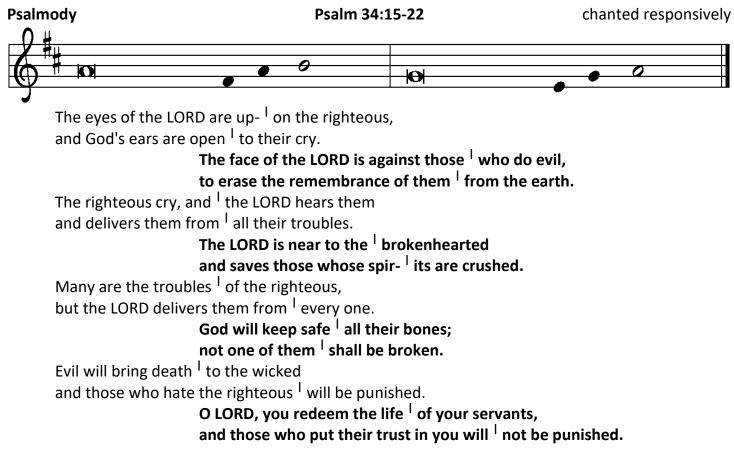
"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the 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."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 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; 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."

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God



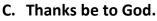
Second Reading

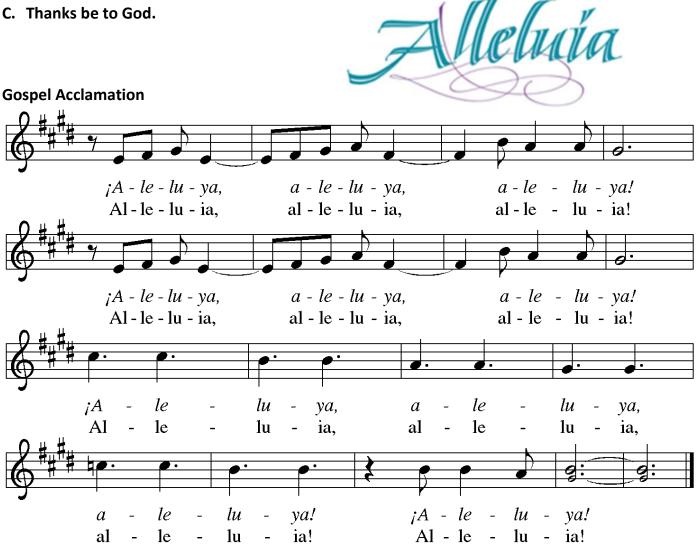
Ephesians 6:10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 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. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

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. 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, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L. Word of God, word of life.





P. The holy gospel according to Saint John, chapter six.

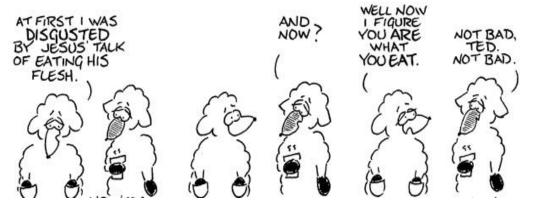
John 6:56-69

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 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." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 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. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

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

- C. Glory to you, O Lord.
- **P.** The gospel of the Lord.
- C. Praise to you O Christ.



Sermon

"This Teaching is Difficult"

Pastor Wayne Dubnansky

Hymn of the Day

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW 810



Apostle's Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

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

A brief silence

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,

- C. hear our prayer.
- P. Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C. Amen



The Peace

- **P.** Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

The Offering

Offertory

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188

Offertory Prayer

- P. 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.
- C. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.
- C. We lift them to the Lord.
- **P.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface: It is truly right . . .



The Sanctus

θ Se - ñor, San - to, san - to es el san to, -Ho - ly, ho _ ly, ho - ly Lord . . . God, **•** Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to es elSe ñor. God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord. θ san - to_es San - to, san - to, to, el Se ñor, san --Ho -1_{V} ho - ly, ho - ly Lord . . . ho ly, God, • Dios del u - ni - ver - so; san - to_es el Se ñor. God of might and pow - er; ho - ly is the Lord. Ho - san - na el lo, la en cie ho san - na en ho Ho - san - na in the high - est, san - na here on tie - rra. Ben - di to elque vie ne en el-Blest the earth. . is he who . . . comes in nom-bre del Se ñor. Ho - san - na el _ en name . . . of the Lord. Ho - san - na the in **O**P lo, la cie ho san - na tie rra. Ben --en earth. high est, ho san - na here on 0 el vie - ne_en el nom - bre Se - ñor. di - to del que Lord. Blest is he who comes in the name . . . of the

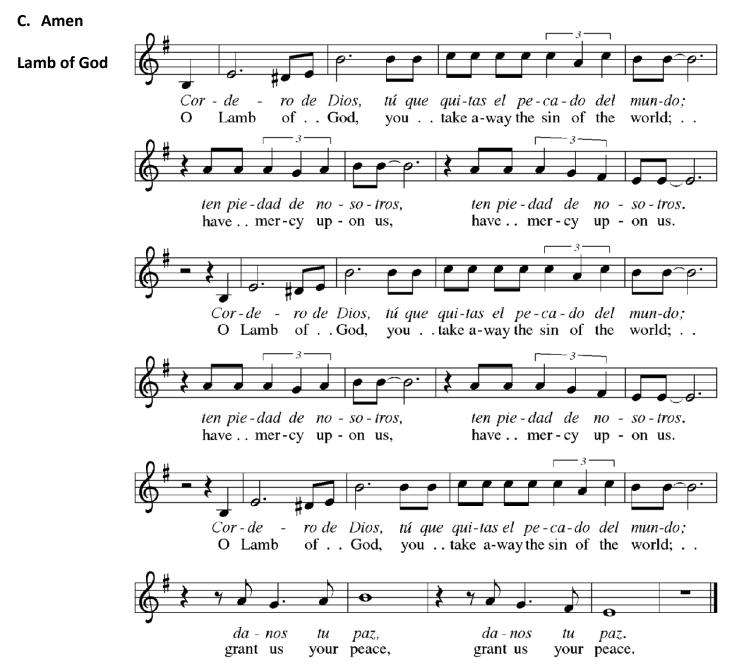
Eucharistic Prayer



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

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



Communion Hymns

Jesus, Come! For We Invite You As We Gather at Your Table Here Is Bread ELW 312

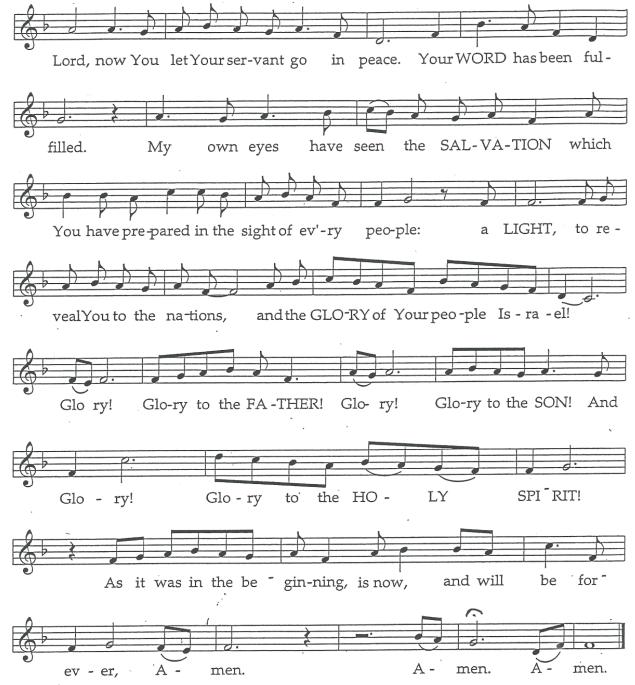
ELW 522

ELW 483

Post Communion Blessing and Canticle

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace and peace.C. Amen

Lord, Now You Let Your Servant Go in Peace



Post Communion Prayer

- A. 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.
- C. Amen

Blessing

- **P.** The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ⁺ be upon you now and forever.
- C. Amen

Sending Hymn

Dismissal

- A. Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C. Thanks be to God.



Assisting Minister	Alecia Harrison
Reader	
Altar Guild	Sylvia Lambert
Greeters/Counters	Sarah Watkins / Dan Hayes
Ushers	Terry Barnes
Acolyte	Antonio Smith

Altar flowers this week are given by Harry Albert in celebration of Sheryll's 39th Birthday ... again!!!



Candles for the month of August are provided by Julia Lochra in honor of her father Albert Lochra's 96th Birthday on August 15th!

