

Announcements

- Welcome to worship on this 13th Sunday after Pentecost!
 - Today we'll be blessing our backpacks *and* the backpacks we've collected
- A huge thank you to our VBS coordinators, volunteers, and families for another successful year of VBS! We're looking for new coordinators for next summer, so if you or someone you know is interested, please let me know!
- Pastor Emily Carson from the Synod Office will be here next week to lead worship!
- Update regarding worship:
 - We are using hymnals and passing the offering plate during worship. (Offering will be after communion so we don't pass the plate before receiving the elements.) Hand sanitizer will also be available after you put your communion cup in the basket, if you'd like to sanitize before returning to your pew.
 - Starting in September, we'll have a change in our online worship schedule as we start to transition from pre-recorded worship to a livestream. Until we have everything set up, we will record our Sunday service in-person and will post it to our website later that day. This means our service will be first available on the local access channel at the Tuesday times and will air through the following Sunday (so Sunday will be a week behind). Thank you for your patience and understanding as we make this transition!

*Confession + Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

God, our provider, **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. Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

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.
Amen.

***Gathering Hymn** | *Here I Am to Worship* (CCLI Song # 3266032 | CCLI License # 20087080)

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came go the earth You created, all for love's sake became poor

So here I am to worship, here I am to bow down, here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me

***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.**

***Prayer of the Day**

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.**

Children's Message + Blessing of Backpacks

First Reading | Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

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. And Joshua said to all the people, "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.”

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.

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***Gospel Reading | John 6:59-69**

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.”

Sermon

Hymn of the Day | *O Jesus, I have Promised*

ELW 810

***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**

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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, bless all who are in any need as well as those who are hurting, especially Dan Borchardt, Larry Zinke, Deloris Streich, Pastor Dave, Nancy Gjerde, and Lori Roemhild, and all those affected by the earthquake in Haiti. We also pray for the friends and families of Anne Michaux, Darleen Ganfield, and Jane Lorsung. 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.**

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.**

***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.

***Words of Institution**

***Lord's Prayer**

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.**

Communion Distribution

Communion Blessing + Prayer

May the body and blood...

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.**

Offering + Sending Hymn | *In Christ Alone* (CCLI Song # 3350395 | CCLI License # 20087080)

In Christ alone my hope is found, he is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace, when fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid, here in the death of Christ I live

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand

***Offering Prayer + Final Blessing**

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.

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

***Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**