

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 15, 2021

10:00 a.m.

INTRODUCTION

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.

PRELUDE



+ GATHERING +

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor (P) Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Congregation (C) Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P 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.



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;

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.

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;

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.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: EN BABELONE, *Quatre en Sonnet* Hoffmann *Boisseries en Contradance*, 1710, arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932
 Text © 1959 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60118. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, 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.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.



+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

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

Reader The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14 *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader ⁹Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.

**C ¹⁰The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good.**

L ¹¹Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.

**C ¹²Who among you takes plea- | sure in life
and desires long life to en- | joy prosperity?**

L ¹³Keep your | tongue from evil
and your lips from | lying words.

C ¹⁴Turn from evil | and do good;
 seek peace | and pursue it.

Spoken after the psalm is sung:

C **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Reader The word of the Lord.

C **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.

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

P The holy gospel according to John, the sixth chapter.

C 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."

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³So 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. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This 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."

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Text © 1971, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C 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

Each petition ends: God, in your mercy,

Congregational response: hear our prayer.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

OFFERING HYMN

679 *For the Fruit of All Creation (v. 1)*



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000
Music: AR HYD Y NUS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
Text © 1930 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

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

C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN 845 *Voices Raised to You (vs. 1 & 2)*

1 Voic - es raised to you we of - fer; tune them, God, for
 2 All cre - a - tion joins to praise you; earth and sky your

songs of praise. Hearts and hands we bring in trib - ute
 works dis - play. Art and mu - sic, gifts you lend us,

for your gifts through all our days. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ye re - turn to you to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Tri - une God, to you we sing!
 Al - le - lu - ia! God, cre - a - tor, source of life!


Text: Herman G. Suenpfe Jr., b. 1923
 Music: SONG OF PRAISE, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936
 Text © 1976 GIA Publications Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60658, www.giainc.com, 800.442.3353.
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Music © 1976 Carolyn Jennings, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

- P We believe out loud that God’s mission for us is:
C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God’s call.**
- P Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
C **Thanks be to God.**

+ + +

*Sundays and Seasons v.20200805.1416
Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved*



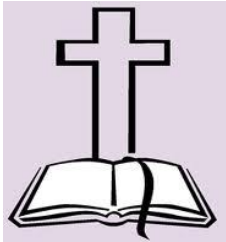
**FLOWERS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD
BY SUSAN AND MARK WARREN
AND IN CELEBRATION OF THEIR
42ND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.**

Calendar for August 15 - 22

Aug.	15	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost,
	18	Wed.	noon	Bible study (online)
Aug.	22	Sun.	10:00 am	Worship, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Next Sunday’s Readings, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost:

[Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18](#)
[Psalm 34:15-22](#)
[Ephesians 6:10-20](#)
[John 6:56-69](#)



Serving	August 15	August 22
Presiding	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Preaching	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom
Assisting Minister	Kirsten Ebbesen	Rob Schiffer
Lector	Chris Reece	Ron Hartung
Altar Guild	Beth Alexander Erin Kenney	Caroline Collins Andrea Notley
Counters	Margaret Bowers Patricia Handschy	Kirsten Ebbesen Rob Schiffer
Announcements	Pastor Tom	Pastor Tom

PRAYER REQUESTS

For the sick: Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White); Gerhard Hofer (brother-in-law of Ridy Hofer).

In treatment for cancer: Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

For health and protection: For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel, EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

For prisoners: Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

Other concerns: Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

Church concerns: St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good

News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

World concerns: For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS: Now that we are back to in-person worship service, we are in need of more worship assistants, mainly Cup Ministers. If you are interested, please contact Lori in the office.

FLOWER CHART FOR 2021: Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2021 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.

RSVP FOR NEXT WEEK: Remember to use the Sign-up Genius to reserve your spot for worship service (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c45a4a62ea7fbc16-sunday>). The deadline is noon on the Friday before worship. The calendar has dates available throughout the summer.