

WORSHIP:
JOSHUA RENEWS THE COVENANT
Sunday, October 16, 2022
9:30 am

PRELUDE

"Prelude and Fugue in E minor"

attrib. to J.S. Bach

+ Gathering +

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING HYMN

Choose This Day



"Choose this day the one you'll foll - ow! Choose the one to guide your
"As for me and those in my house, we'll serve God, and God a -
In a world that finds its plea - sure in the things that mon - ey
In a world where re - cre - a - tion tempts our fa - m'lies from the
In a world of war and vio - lence, may we foll - ow Christ each



way!" So a lea - der told his peo - ple as he spoke to them one
lone!" Lord, these words of chall - enge meet us in our fam - 'lies and our
buys, We are called to diff - rent trea - sure as we hear your peop - le's
pews, May we pon - der what the faith means as we help our fam - 'lies
day. Where opp - re - ssion meets with sil - ence, may our fam - 'lies act and



day. "Some see o - ther gods and foll - ow They put trust in what is holl - ow. You must
homes. For the val - ues all a - round us Of - ten troub - le and con - found us. Can we
cries. May our fam - 'lies find in ser - ving those the world calls un - des - er - ving Bread that
choose. By ex - am - ple, are we lead - ing Or are oth - er things im - ped - ing How we
pray. May we find in faith and prac - tice How our homes can be a wit - ness As we



choose whom you'll o - bey You must choose whom you'll o - bey
live as you have shown? Can we live as you have shown?
tru - ly sat - is - fies. Bread that tru - ly sat - is - fies.
love your won - drous news? How we live your won - drous news?
foll - ow Je - sus' Way. As we foll - ow Je - sus' Way.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Music: Polish Carol (87878877)

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.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we enter into sacred covenant with God. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning you created us in your image and placed us in a well-watered garden. In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched, and you gave us water from the rock. When we did not know the way, you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters. At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side, and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water, for the water in this font, and for all water everywhere. Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love. Satisfy all who thirst, and give us the Life only you can give.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LITANY OF PRAISE: OUR COVENANTING GOD

Refrain:



The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "I am your God; you are my people." The music ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

We bless and thank you, Lord our God, for the promise you spoke to Noah:

“I establish my covenant with you:

Never again will all life be destroyed by the water of a flood.” (Gen. 9:11)

With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke to Abraham and Sarah:

“I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant

between me and you and your descendants after you
for the generations to come,

to be your God and the God of your descendants after you.” (Gen. 17:7)

With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke to Moses, Miriam, and the people of Israel:

**“If you obey me fully and keep my covenant,
then you will be my treasured possession.**

You will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” (Ex. 19:5-6)

With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke to David:

**“I will raise up your offspring to succeed you,
your own flesh and blood,**

and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” (2 Sam. 7:12-13)

With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke through Jeremiah:

**“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel:
I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.**

I will be their God, and they will be my people.” (Jer. 31:33)

With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

For the promise you spoke through Jesus:

**“This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many
for the forgiveness of sins.”** (Matt. 26:28, Luke 22:20)

With joy, your people heard the sure promise:

Refrain

Heirs of the promise, called by your Spirit,
we hear again these gracious promises.

With joy and trust we declare:

You are our God; we are your people.

Words and Music (JANNA fragment): David A. Hoekema, 1978.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

**God of deliverance, you saved the people of Israel and chose Joshua to lead your people to
the Promised Land. Choose us and equip us to live with faith and peace. We pray these
things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

THE BIBLE STORY

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-27

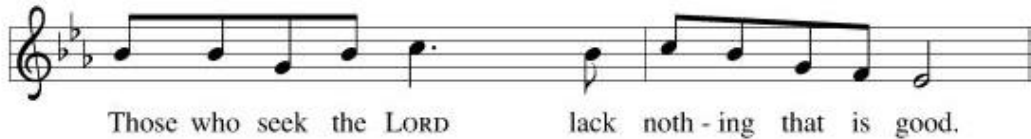
In keeping with the oral tradition of scripture, the Bible Story is presented verbally. You are invited to receive the story with open ears, minds, and hearts, joining with our ancestors in faith who have received these narratives through oral storytelling for thousands of years. For those who are hard of hearing, the text is provided on pages 18-19.

Word of God, word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

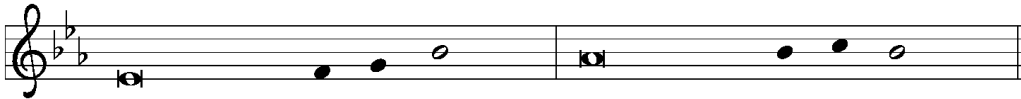
Psalm 34:1-4, 12-22

Antiphon:



Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* ©2008 Augsburg Fortress.
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Psalm Tone:



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹I will bless the LORD¹ at all times;
the praise of God shall ever be¹ in my mouth.

²**I will glory¹ in the LORD;**
let the lowly hear¹ and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness¹ of the LORD;
let us exalt God's¹ name together.

⁴**I sought the LORD, who¹ answered me**
and delivered me from¹ all my terrors.

Antiphon

¹²Who among you takes plea-¹sure in life
and desires long life to en-¹joy prosperity?

¹³**Keep your¹ tongue from evil**
and your lips from¹ lying words.

¹⁴Turn from evil¹ and do good;
seek peace¹ and pursue it.

¹⁵**The eyes of the LORD are up-¹ on the righteous,**
and God's ears are open¹ to their cry.

Antiphon

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

¹⁷**The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.**

¹⁸The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.

Antiphon

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

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

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

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

Antiphon

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

Oh, Blest the House

Oh, blest the house, what - e'er be - fall, Where
Oh, blest the house, where faith is found, And
Oh, blest that house; it pros - pers well! In
Then here will I and mine to - day A

3
Je - sus Christ is All - in - All! For if he were not
all in cha - ri - ty a - bound To trust their God and
peace and joy the par - ents dwell, And in their chil - dren's
sol - emn cov - 'nant make and say: Though all the world for -

6
dwell - ing there, How dark and poor and void it were!
serve him still And do in all his ho - ly will!
lives is shown How rich - ly God can bless his own.
sake his Word, My House and I will serve the Lord.

Text: Christoph C. L. von Pfeil, 1712-1784; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878, alt.

Music: Deo Gracias LM, English Ballad 15th cent.

A CELTIC CREED

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth,
of people of every color and gender.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,
and His kin-dom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life. Amen.**

From the Iona Abbey Worship Book, adapted by Pr. Allison Bengfort.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I invite you to assume a posture of prayer. You may sit, stand, or kneel; fold your hands or turn them upward; close your eyes or lift them to the altar.

Loving God, with thankful hearts we come before you.
Thankful for those who made this church more than just a far-fetched dream
but who brought it to life and established it within this community.
Thankful for those who have served, worshiped, and cared for others
and so built up the community of God we call St. John's.

Today we are mindful that flowing on from a legacy of the past,
we have responsibility for the present and the future.
Help us channel our faith into action.
Help us learn from your eternal story of presence and interaction
how we, too, can facilitate that presence in our world today.

Help us learn to be peacemakers in a fractious world,
caregivers to the poor and vulnerable,
seekers of justice alongside those who need it most.
Help us to learn how to care for the grieving
and give encouragement to the young.
Help us look beyond thoughts of self
and recognize what we can do for others.

Pause for silent prayer.

Lord, you ask us to be loyal to your ways.
Teach us your ways.
Unveil in the stories of scripture the God who we must serve.
Let us catch a scent of You as we live out our daily lives.
Continue to teach us and show us how to best serve You.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

From *Spill the Beans: Worship and Learning Resources for All Ages*, Issue 13.
Adapted by Pr. Allison Bengfort.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

You are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (wave, handshake, hug, etc.), honoring the personal boundaries of all. Those online may unmute and verbally share the peace.

+ Meal +

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Grounded in God's covenant, it is our active love that reveals who we worship. As the plate is passed, you are invited to commit to giving of your whole selves. Together, we give of our talents and material resources to the church, with the expectation that they be used to further God's dream for our world.

By Tim Graves, adapted by Pr. Allison Bengfort.

OFFERING

We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's!

Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, made in the Vanco Mobile app, or given online at stjohnswilmette.org/give. Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Some Folk Would Rather Have Houses"

Harris Johnson

OFFERTORY VERSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
 Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927
 Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

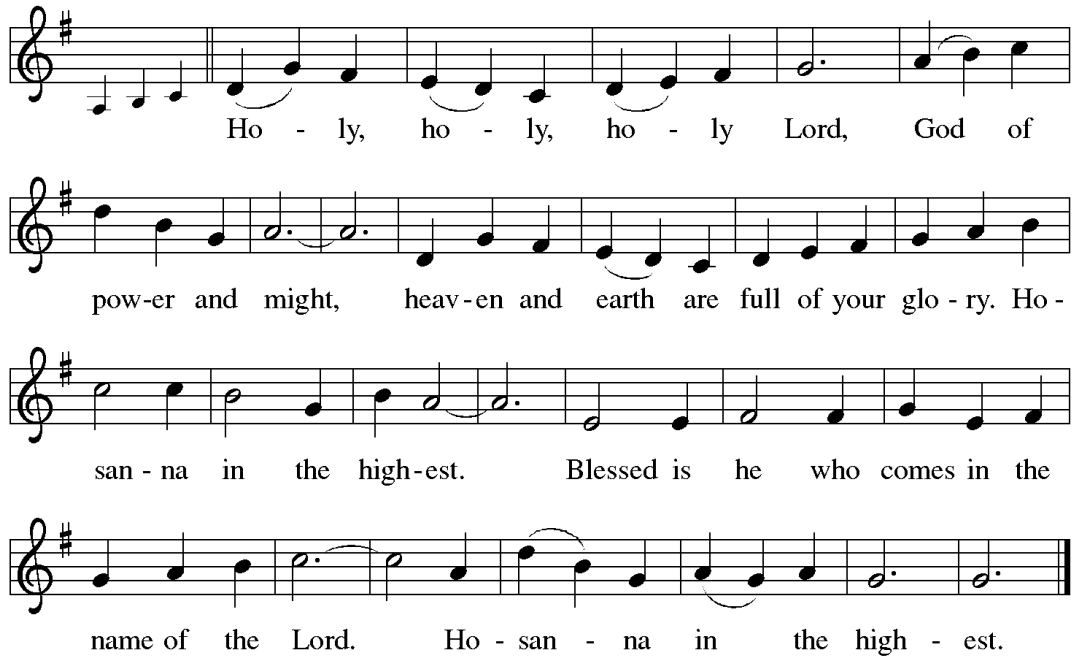
Let us pray together.
Gracious God,
in your great love you richly provide for our needs.
Make of these gifts a banquet of blessing,
and make us ready to share with all in need;
through Jesus Christ, who sets a table for all. Amen.

DIALOGUE

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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Those worshipping online are invited to raise their bread and wine along with the pastor to be blessed.

LORD'S PRAYER

**God our Mother,
God our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

**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,
the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher, maintaining social distancing. You may receive bread or request a gluten-

free wafer. Please step forward and then remove your mask to eat in front of the altar. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table next to you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). You may drink and then place the empty glass in the basket. Please re-mask before returning to your seat. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

COMMUNION SONG

Come to the Table (ELW 481)

Sung three times or more.



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music.

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together.

**God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.**

**Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**

Amen.

+ Sending +

COLORS OF THE COVENANT CHILDREN'S TIME

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff starts with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive. The second staff starts with a measure rest labeled '5' and continues the melody. The third staff starts with a measure rest labeled '9' and ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: 'Shades of pur-ple, shades of blue, green and yell-ow, or-ange, red. Soon new life was spring-ing forth, fill-ing land and sea and air. In the rain-bow, you were clear: ev-ery liv-ing thing has worth. No-ah and his fam'-ly too, saw the rain-bow ov-er-head. God, you chose to bless the earth with the prom-ise of your care. You love ev-ery crea-ture here on this plan-et we call Earth. God, Cre-a-tor, high a-bove you dis-played your sign of love. May we be a bless-ing too, co-cre-at-ing life with you. God, re-mind us ev-ery day, that your grace is here to stay.'

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
adapted by: Pr. Allison Bengfort

Music: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901
Gethsemane (777777)

BENEDICTION

God, whose breath enlivens all things,
whose promise is everlasting,
and whose love overflows to all,
bless you with truth and peace,
in the name of the Creator, ✠ the Christ, and the Holy Spirit,
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised (ELW 810)



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
 3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you



re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard - ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, confident in Christ's love.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“Sinfonie” from *Te Deum*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth-Hosted Coffee Hour Today

Please join us after worship today for a special coffee hour hosted and prepared by the youth of St. John's. Our youth are very excited to show you the delicious treats they picked out for you to enjoy.

Seeking Children's Church Volunteers

We are fortunate to have a very vibrant Sunday School program going this year, and we are looking for volunteers who would be interested in teaching or assisting with Children's Church. If you're interested, please sign up using the link in your E-news. If you would like to learn more information about the curriculum and what a typical lesson looks like, please reach out to the Youth Ministry Team (Luke & Erin Rasmussen and Jason Shutters).

Adult Forum Today at 11 am and Wednesdays at 6 pm

The DVD chosen for this four-week series is "Eternity is Now in Session" with John Ortberg. Discussion will follow each week, and we'll meet in the conference room next to the Fellowship Hall. This series is also offered on Wednesday evenings, beginning with a supper at 6 pm. There is a poster with additional information in the gathering area. We would love to have you join us. Attendance at all four weeks will not be required to be inspired by each week's presentation.

Temple Jeremiah Open House & Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, at 7:00 pm, Temple Jeremiah will host an open house as well as a regular meeting of the New Trier Multifaith Alliance (NTMA). The "Interfaith Understanding Committee" of NTMA, which is responsible for education and outreach, conducts a series of congregational visits in correlation with major occasions on the Interfaith Calendar. Jeremiah clergy will provide an overview of Jewish worship, including an up-close look at the beautiful Sanctuary and a brief explanation of how its elements contribute to worship. As always, there will be time for your questions and answers. Following the program at approximately 8:00 pm, you are welcome to join in the regular meeting which includes planning updates on future events.

Chicago Choral Artists Performs: Encompassing Life, Encircling Light

Friday, October 21, 7:30 pm, Kehrein Center for the Arts

5628 W Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL 60644

Sunday, October 23, 4:00 pm, Grace Lutheran Church

7300 Division St., River Forest, IL 60305

The Chicago Choral Artist's (CCA's) 2022-23 season opens with two concerts featuring Bob Chilcott's stirring *Circlesong*, a seven-movement work reflecting on the human lifecycle. *Circlesong* uses twelve poems from indigenous North American traditions. CCA collaborates on this program with Pro Musica Youth Chorus and four percussionists associated with the Chicago Sinfonietta. Additional works include *Circle of Life* by Sheena Phillips based on five Native American peoples, Judith Cloud's *Mesa Songs*, a work inspired by the incredible landscape of Northern Arizona, and J. Aaron McDermid's four-movement work, *From Light to Light* based on original texts by Susan Paulo Cherwien.

This is Luke Duroc-Danner's second season as a singer with this ensemble. If you have any questions about the music or tickets, you can email him at luke@stjohnswilmette.com or visit CCA's website at chicagochoralartists.org.

CROP Hunger Walk

Today is the day of the North Shore Virtual CROP Walk, Sunday, October 16! St. John's has traditionally taken part in this walk as a group when it used to be in-person. This year, you can support the cause by walking any day and donating online to show your commitment to ending hunger in our community and throughout the world. Donations can be made using the link in this week's Enewsletter.

Support St. John's through your Online Purchases

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate "St John Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John's encourages all its members to make purchases locally.

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE STORY

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-27

¹Joshua 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. ²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says Yahweh, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴Now therefore revere Yahweh, and serve Yahweh in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve Yahweh. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve Yahweh, 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 Yahweh."

¹⁶Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake Yahweh to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is Yahweh 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. Yahweh protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and Yahweh drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve Yahweh, for Yahweh is our God."

¹⁹But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve Yahweh, for Yahweh is a holy God. Yahweh is a jealous God; Yahweh will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰If you forsake Yahweh and serve foreign gods, then Yahweh will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good."

²¹And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve Yahweh!" ²²Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve Yahweh." And they said, "We are witnesses."

²²Joshua said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to Yahweh, the God of Israel." ²⁴The people said to Joshua, "Yahweh our God we will serve, and Yahweh we will obey." ²⁵So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. ²⁶Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of Yahweh. ²⁷Joshua said to all the people, "See, this stone shall

be a witness against us; for it has heard all the words of Yahweh spoken to us; therefore it shall be a witness against you, if you deal falsely with your God."

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.