**Worship Plan for Sunday, August 15, 2021**

Lectionary 20

Proper 15

12th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Sunday, August 15, 2021

**Introduction to the day**

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.

**GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**August 15, 2021**

**LECTIONARY 20**

**What’s for Dinner?**

Whether you plan meals weeks in advance, rummage through the pantry for inspiration at 4:30 p.m., or pull a stack of well-worn takeout menus from the kitchen drawer; whether you purchase the ingredients, help create the meal, or have no input at all and gratefully eat whatever someone else provides, it’s a seemingly universal question: What’s for dinner? What we eat is important. Most of us try to balance our personal tastes and preferences with some attention to health and nutrition. Some of us follow specific dietary trends and plans: keto, paleo, low-carb, low-cal . . . the list goes on. Others of us, restricted by tight budgets and food deserts, make choices we would rather not.

What we eat, how it was raised and grown, how it got from the farm to our table, and even how much it costs are hot topics today. It can be easy to get lost in the wilderness of these discussions. But along comes Jesus, right on time. Turning the world’s conversation on its head, he boldly announces, “My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink” (John 6:55). Here our debates about fat versus carbs, allergens and alternatives, and the price of ingredients are brought to a halt: the menu is set.

Here there is no lack of access or money, for all is freely given. Here the stresses of planning, shopping, and cooking on a tight schedule fade away in the light of eternity as the great heavenly banquet is set before you. As you approach the table, you approach the Lord of your salvation, here in flesh and blood. As you receive the bread and wine, you receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for you. As you return to the world and your various vocations, know that no matter what is for dinner, you abide in Christ, and he abides in you. Truly, this is “true food” and “true drink.”

**RECORD**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Greeting**

Welcome to worship today, we are glad to have you with our Faith Lutheran Church community. I'm Pr. John Barton and I will be leading our service today.

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**Announcements**

In light of the recent dramatic increase in positive COVID case rates in the city and county, we would like to ask those of us who are vaccinated to wear your mask. If you are unvaccinated, we need to you please wear your mask. Just raise your hand if you need one and the ushers will provide it.

Monday: Worship & Music meets at 9:30

Tuesday: 4 Plus 1 meets at 10:00 at church; Altar Guild meets at 11:00 at church; Endowment Board meets at 1:30 on Zoom

Friday: Al-Anon meets at 10:30 at church

Other:

For more information and a complete monthly calendar, contact the church office. Thank you!

**And now please turn to page \_\_\_\_**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Gathering Song*Morning Has Broken* (ELW 556)**

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Composer:

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, 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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

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.

**Amen.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading:**

A reading from Proverbs.

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.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading:**

A reading from Ephesians.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel:**

The holy gospel according to John.

**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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

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Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Hymn of the Day*Abide with Me* (ELW 629)**

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**ASSISTING MINISTER**

We continue as we confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's Creed.

**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.**

\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

**Pastor and Assisting Minister**

**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 wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms (especially). God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer (especially). God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of beauty, inspire artists. Bless those whose visual and musical gifts enliven this assembly (especially). Bless the creative work of poets, hymnwriters, composers, painters, sculptors, and others that enrich our worship and daily life. God, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last day raise us with (Mary, mother of Jesus, name/s, and) all the saints to eternal life. God, 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.**

**Prayer List**

Gloria Anderson; Nancy Blackmer; Julie Chevraux; Daniel Conner; Vicki Crow; Sally Duncan; Joni Gray; Bill Hallahan; Kally Homchick; Marlon Jay; Francis Key; Patsy Loughboro; Sandra Miller; Carol Morris; Pat Myers; Sheila Neal; Ron Neumen; Tina Peteroski & family; Andrew Quinn; Edy Rose; Dee Seel; Jan Simon; Earlean Wagner; Ken Wall; Diana Ward; Bernie Weston; Mary Yturralde; the homebound; the Emergency responders; and those grieving and anticipating surgery/tests. We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost loved ones.

At this time we also pray for those we name aloud or silently in our hearts.

If you would like your name added to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

**Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

**Offering**

At this time, we remember that the giving of our offering is an authentic part of worship.

This month we are highlighting the ministry of Christian Education and the Spiritual Gifts of evangelism, teaching, faith and wisdom.

In 2 Corinthians 9:7, Paul says “Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

The apostle Paul describes Spiritual Gifts in 1 Corinthians saying: “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone."

Your offering, gathered in praise of God, helps this ministry by giving the monetary gifts which Finance keeps track of and deeper than that you are practicing your faith in a very real way by answering God's call to participate and activate the ministries of this congregation which we all love so much!

Thank you so much for all the ways you give and help to make the ministries of this church possible!

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Meal**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**Great Thanksgiving**

**Dialogue (ELW p. 152)**

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 (ELW p. 153)**

*The presiding minister continues:*

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:

**Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 153)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**Lord God of pow’r and might:**

**Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**INSTRUCTION FOR COMMUNION**

Now, I invite you to gather bread and drink for communion and share with anyone in your household.

Gathering at Christ's table, we trust in God's all-reaching power and grace to provide each one of us the complete and total sacrament in these extraordinary times

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Come, Let Us Eat*Come, Let Us Eat* (ELW 491)**

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**Invitation to Communion**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**And now please turn to page \_\_\_\_**

Please stand as you are willing and able.

**Sending Song*On Our Way Rejoicing* (ELW 537)**

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**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**ASSISTING MINISTER**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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