

**Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church  
454 Miller Street Pembroke, Ontario  
Office (613)732-8792 Pastor Scott Schellenberger (705)313-0333**

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost –August 22, 2021**

**Setting Three - Evangelical Lutheran Worship p. 147**

**All page numbers are found in the front part of the hymnal and hymns  
are found in the back.**

Prelude

## **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Land Acknowledgment**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Anishnabeg and Algonquin People.

### **Introduction**

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.

### **Gathering Hymn #758 ELW – “You Are the Way”**

#### **Greeting - Page 138**

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.**

#### **Kyrie– Page 138**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Canticle of Praise – Page 140**

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

### **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.**

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

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“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. <sup>15</sup>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.”<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>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; <sup>18</sup>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.”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 34:15-22**

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and God’s ears are open to their cry.

**<sup>16</sup>The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

**<sup>18</sup>The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the LORD delivers them from every one.

**<sup>20</sup>God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.**

<sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

<sup>22</sup>O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.

### **Second Reading – Ephesians 6:10-20**

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>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. <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Sermon:**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** – *Page 142*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

**GOSPEL: John 6:56-69**

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup>“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>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.” <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>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. <sup>65</sup>And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.” <sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon : John 6:56-69 - Bishop Michael J. Pryse, Eastern Synod**

Dear friends in Christ. It's a privilege to be with you as a part of this morning's worship and to be able to give your dear pastor some much welcome relief. Our rostered ministers have been doing such a wonderful job over the course of the past year and a half. But it's hard work and we need to do everything we can to give them our encouragement and support and I'm glad to be able to help in this small way.

In today's epistle and Gospel lessons we are provided with some incredibly rich and evocative images of what it means to live a Christian life. They are also challenging images that have been understood in different ways through the church's history.

Today's epistle from Paul's letter to the Ephesians reads as follows. “Therefore, take up the whole armour 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.”

I must confess that I find the martial, militarized language of this text difficult. It may be that I have been overly sensitized by my summer’s reading of the full five volume — 5000 plus pages — Game of Thrones series. As fun as it’s been, I’ve pretty much had my fill of breastplates, helms, swords and shields! But I am also quite aware of the destructive ways in which Christian people have seen the life of discipleship through militaristic lenses. The images of battle and conquest have been used by Christians to engage in evil acts that are completely at odds with the Gospel of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. As such, we need to be extremely careful in how we read and express such imagery.

I am heartened, however, that the passage is framed with the counsel that we arm ourselves with whatever is necessary to proclaim “the Gospel of Peace.” That is the real point here! And although the imagery used is all about arming for violent battle, the real strength that is advocated is not the might of armies, but rather the world-reconciling power of the Prince of

Peace who himself was the victim of a violent and oppressive regime. Yes, evil exists. And yes, we do need to combat evil. But we do so by arming ourselves, not with weapons, but with the virtues of righteousness, peace, faith and the Word of God.

Hence, I find it helpful to read this Ephesians passage alongside other discipleship descriptions employed by Paul, such as this passage from his letter to the Colossians where he writes, “As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

Today’s Gospel, likewise, holds a few theological pitfalls of which we need to be careful. This is now our fifth and final Sunday dwelling within John, chapter six. For four of those we have been moving our way through Jesus’ “bread of life discourse” at the synagogue in Capernaum.

For most of us, the phrase “bread of life” is well known and often used in our churchly discourse; almost casually! But that was not the case for Jesus’ listeners in this passage. For many it was deeply offensive! We read

that the people complained and grumbled. “This is difficult! Who can accept it?” Many simply turned and walked away.

Have you ever considered the possibility that Jesus might well have preached more people out of the kingdom than into it? For some who walked away that day, I suspect that they could not consider anything other than a quite literal interpretation of Jesus’ words, “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” This is cannibalism; this is a grotesque abomination.

To which some of us might respond, but wait a minute; this is clearly a reference to the eucharist. Jesus is speaking of his presence in the Holy Communion. But if that’s really the case, I don’t know how Jesus could have expected his listener’s to “get it.” The last supper, the event which Christians subsequently viewed as the first eucharist, the first Holy Communion, hadn’t yet occurred. The first record of a liturgical re-enactments of that event, in something resembling what we call Holy Communion, is found in First Corinthians which wasn’t written until around 55 years after Jesus’ death.

Ah, but Bishop! You and I both know that the Gospel of John was probably written between 90 and 100 years after Jesus’ death. Its authors would have been a part of a eucharistic community that was conversant with

using these images in this way. Maybe they were putting words in Jesus' mouth or perhaps phrasing them in such a way as to affirm their own churchly practices and theological constructs. Perhaps; and there are some scholars who would support that particular interpretation

But when I look at the John 6 discourse in the context of the whole book – the whole Gospel of John – when I look to a broad range of biblical scholars, I come to a different conclusion. I think what Jesus is really talking about here is incarnation – the Word – the logos – about God entering into the life of God's own creation and becoming flesh. I also think many of Jesus' listeners would have heard him saying as such and it was that – that earth shattering theological construct — that they found to be, at worst, offensive, and at best, impossible to believe!

I think that it was — and still is — almost unimaginable that God so loved the world – so loved God's creation – that God chooses to enter into that world – certainly in the person of Jesus of Nazareth - but also through Jesus into us — into God's beloved creation — so that we might have true and lasting life and have it abundantly.

Luther Seminary theologian Karoline Lewis describes it this way. “This is truth. Because at the end of the day, life, real life, life lived, abundant life, is hard to fathom, hard to accept, hard to imagine that it could be yours.

Judas's betrayal that is referenced at the end of chapter 6, is fundamentally a rejection of relationship but it is also an unwillingness to receive life beyond measure, an inability to accept that abundant life could be true, a reluctance to envision, to dream, to picture that when God said "God loves the world that it actually meant him — and means you." That's powerful!

And it is that relationship, as intimate and nourishing as eating and drinking can be – God, in Christ, entering into our lives, our existence, our being — that gives us the will and the capacity to clothe and arm ourselves in the way Paul describes to the Ephesians and the Colossians.

Our Gospel lesson today concludes with Jesus asking a question to his disciples. "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."

May Peter's response be our response. AMEN

### **Hymn of the Day #810 ELW – *"O Jesus, I Have Promised"***

#### **Apostles' Creed– Page 105**

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**

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,

**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. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. 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 (*especially*). Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## **THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be always with you

**C: And also with you.**

## **Offering**

*Please place offerings on the plate as you leave the church or feel free to drop off your envelopes at the church and you can also e-transfer offerings.*

**Offertory Hymn      884 ELW Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow**

## **OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 144)**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **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.**

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. 144)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

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

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p.145)**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.

You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, **Father**, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p.145)**

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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW P.146)**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**COMMUNION**

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

**Communion Hymns #468 ELW – “*Around You, O Lord Jesus*”  
#494 ELW – “*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*”**

**Post Communion Prayer (ELW p. 146)**

Let us pray.

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body of blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Benediction**

May the Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord + look upon you with peace. **Amen.**

**Hymn #545 ELW – “*Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing*”**

**Sending**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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## **News and Announcements:**

### **Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested Special**

**Prayers:** Florence Felske, Jason Godin, Richard Hubert, Stanley Kubiseskie, Heather Miller, Vince Rabishaw, Aileen Roesler, Robert Schoof, Kaitlyn Vaillancourt, Dorian Verch, Ryan.

## **RE-OPENING FOR IN-PERSON SERVICE – SINGING AGAIN!**

Zion has been worshipping in-person for the last number of weeks maintaining social distancing of 2 metres. **Entering Phase 3 we can sing again!** Masks must be worn while singing.

## **INSTALLATION SERVICE OF PASTOR SCOTT**

Please mark the afternoon of September 26 as busy on your calendar as we will be gathering for the official installation of Pastor Scott as called Pastor to serve Zion Lutheran Church Pembroke. The time will be announced soon.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASSES**

**Do you have children who are confirmation age (12-14)?** A new confirmation class will be started in the fall. The confirmation program will include regular classes, fun youth activities, and a year end week-long camp experience with confirmands of other churches. If you or your children are interested, please contact the church office or Pastor Scott 705-313-0333 to talk more.

## **GARAGE SALE**

We are still planning to have our garage sale this fall sometime so if you have anything to donate please save it for us. If you want you can bring your donations over during office hours and Jean or Kevin can show you where to put them. The tentative date is Saturday, October 16, 2021.

## **SERVICE BROADCAST ON COGECO**

Cogeco Community Channel is now broadcasting Zion's services at 9:00 a.m. and 12:30pm (if it is not on at 12:30, it will be on at 1:30pm) on Sunday mornings a week later.

## **UPDATES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL**

Pastor Scott will be available at the church office during regular office hours – Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Pastor Scott is available for backyard visits too. The church office phone number is 613-732-8792 or call Pastor Scott's cell phone at 705-313-0333

## **CAMP LUTHERLYN RALLY SUNDAY**

We are excited to announce that we will be holding our Rally Sunday morning service at Camp Lutherlyn on Sunday, September 12, 2021.

## **Today's Video Has Been Brought To You By Zion Lutheran Church's Production Crew:**

**Presider:** Pastor Scott Schellenberger

**Musician:** Lillian Michel

**Worship Assistant/Reader:** Susan Dupuis

**Projectionist:** Diane Hammel

**Recorder:** Ellen Vandersleen

**Sound Board Operator:** Gerry Vandersleen

**Credit Researcher:** Diane Hammel

## **Today's Scheduled Worship Leaders**

**Counters:** Doug & Pauline Malliff, Sandra Graham

**Ushers:** Debbie Wegner, Sonya Grife

**Sexton:** Koit Rull

## **This Week at Zion –August 23 - 29**

**Tuesday 7p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

**Thursday 7pm** Music Healing Vets

**Saturday** **Marriage of Katie Rutz & Mitchell McGregor**

*(off site)*

**Sunday**

**10am**

Pentecost 14 Worship Service with Holy  
Communion