

The Lutheran Church of Our Saviour

We Greet Our Members and Visitors Warmly In Jesus' Name.

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m. Sunday, August 25, 2024



Welcome to Worship at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour Sharing the Gospel, Learning God's Love, Reaching and Lifting Up Creation!

2415 Chili Avenue. Rochester, NY, $14624 \,\mid\! 585 \text{-} 247 \text{-} 7824 \mid\! \text{www.oursaviourrochester.org}$

Prelude Welcome & Announcements

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.



Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us in compassion,

forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pastor: Have mercy, O God,

All: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our

sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy

within us. Amen.

Pastor: As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as

heaven is above the earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through

Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

All: Blessed be God forever.

(Please stand until the conclusion of the Gloria)

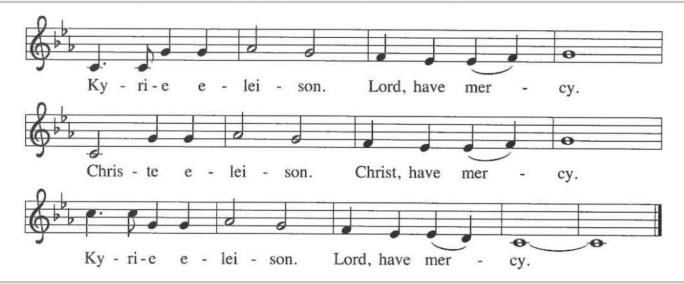
Entrance Hymn: "When Morning Guilds the Skies"



Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Kyrie



Gloria



Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray.

All: 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.

(You may be seated)

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

Lector: In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relation ships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship.

Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

A reading from the book of Joshua.

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."

Lector: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:15-22

Lector: The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their

cry.

All: The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of

them from the earth.

Lector: The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their

troubles.

All: The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are

crushed.

Lector: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them from every

one.

All: God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

Lector: Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be

punished.

All: Lord, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you

will not be punished.

The Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Lector:

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

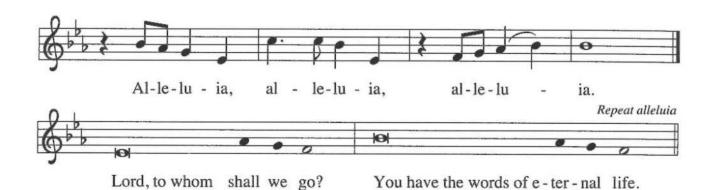
Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand if you are able)

Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel Reading: John 6:56-69

Pastor: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord According to St. John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Pastor:

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.

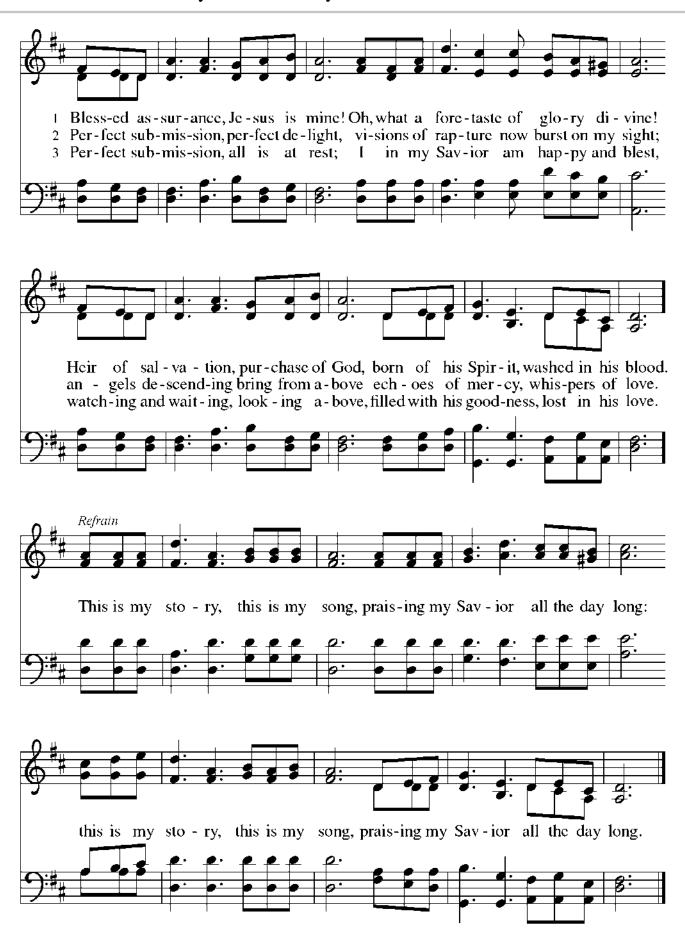
When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that 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."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Hymn of the Day: "Blessed Assurance"



The Sermon: Pastor Joachim Wilck

Hymn of Response: "Holy, Holy"



(Please stand if you are able)

The Apostles' Creed

Pastor: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Prayer of Intercession

Pastor: Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray

for the church, the world, and all in need. (a brief silence)

Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust

in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the

baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all

who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the

work of conservation organizations. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our

leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversa-

tion among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where

pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring

your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts (especially). Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an

end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is

necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have

completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to

serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,

All: receive our prayer.

Pastor: We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy

keeping.

All: Amen.

Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(Please be seated)

Offering Hymn "As the Grains of Wheat"



Offering Prayer

Pastor:

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure. Word and water, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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 in their unending hymn:



Pastor:

O God triune, you took on our flesh in Jesus our healer. In Christ you bring life from death; we remember his cross, we laud his resurrection. Broken like bread, he enlivens our body. Outpoured like wine, he fills the earth with goodness. Receiving this mystery, we mortals sing our song: The earth is full of your glory.

All: The earth is full of your glory.

Pastor: We praise you for the heart of Jesus, so filled with your love for this earth.

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 around this table, we your children unite in the song: The earth is full of your glory.

All: The earth is full of your glory.

Pastor: O God triune, you create the worlds, you uphold the living, you embrace the

dead. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth. Strengthen us for our journey with this meal, the body and blood of Christ. Give us a future that trusts in you and cares for your earth. Empowered by your promises, we

rise from our deaths to praise you again: The earth is full of your glory.

All: The earth is full of your glory.

Pastor: Amen, and amen.

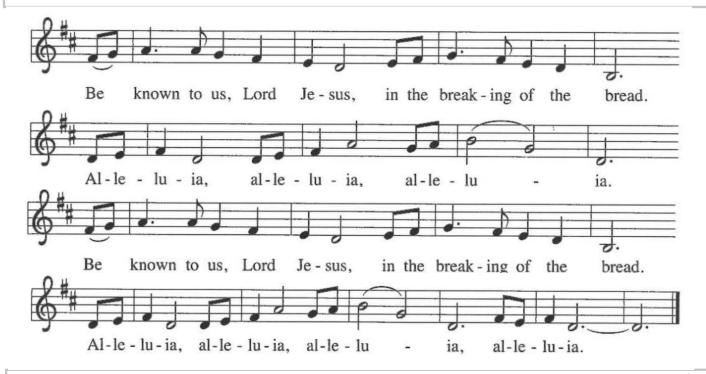
All: Amen, and amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray as our Savior taught.

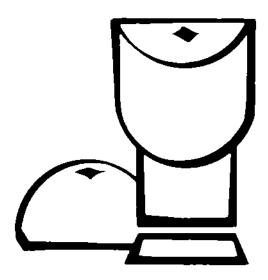
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion



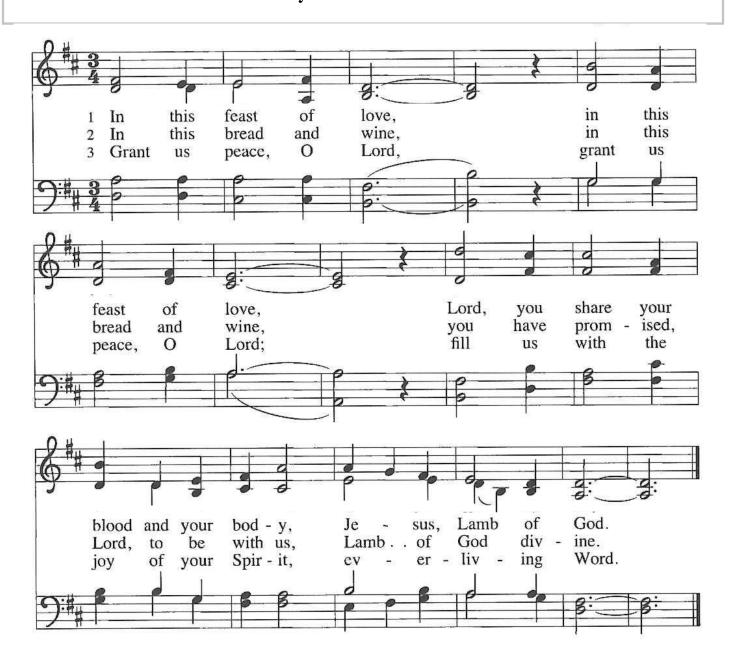
Communion Invitation

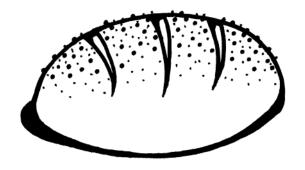
Pastor: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!



(if you would like communion to be brought to you in your pew, please speak to a service leader.)

Communion Hymn: "In This Feast of Love"





Post Communion Hymn: "Now The Meal Is Over"



Post Communion Prayer

Pastor:

Living God, as the disciples ate and drank with their risen Lord, we have been nourished with the very presence of Christ. Through this meal may we be strengthened to keep your word and to proclaim the power of your love in Jesus Christ our Savior.

All: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in † Christ Jesus.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: "Praise and Thanksgiving"



Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace, carrying the love of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude