



**+ Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 22, 2021**

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
**304 Morewood Ave.**  
**Pittsburgh, PA 15213**

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**+ Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Order for Worship**

*In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples turn away from following him. 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 take up the armor of God's gifts. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.*

***A few notes on precautions and protocols, which apply to everyone regardless of vaccination status, as St. Andrew returns to worship in the sanctuary:***

- Name and contact information will be recorded for all worshipers in attendance in case the need for contact tracing should arise.
- Face masks that fully cover both your mouth and nose are required at all times for everyone over the age of two (2) – the only exception being the brief moment of moving mask aside to partake in Holy Communion.
- Outside food and drink are thus not permissible during worship.
- Physical distancing of at least six (6) feet will be observed at all times for people not from your household.
- We invite the congregation to voice responses and prayers during worship. A cantor will sing the hymns with a mask on, and the rest of the congregation is encouraged to follow along silently.
- We ask that everyone use hand sanitizer, either your own or from the bottles throughout the sanctuary, especially prior to Holy Communion.

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Gathering

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God, our provider,  
**come to the help of your people.**  
**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.**

*We ask that those present in the church sanctuary refrain from singing the hymns aloud.  
The assembly gathered from afar is encouraged to sing!*

## **Gathering Hymn**

## **As We Gather at Your Table**

***ELW 522***

- 1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry known.**
  
- 2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.**
  
- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.**

Text: Carl P. Daw, Jr., b. 1944. Music: IN BABILONE, *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse Boerenlities en Contradansen*, 1710; arr. Julius Röntgen, 1855-1932. Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

## **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.

## Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

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.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

### 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 the Lord 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. The Lord 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 the Lord is our God.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God’s 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

### **Gospel Acclamation** (*Spoken*)

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

### **Gospel – John 6: 56-69**

P: The holy Gospel according to St. John.

**C: 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 Humanity 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

### **Sermon**

*Please rise as you are able.*

- 1 Abide, O dearest Jesus, among us with your grace,  
that evil may not harm us nor we to sin give place.
- 2 Abide, O dear Redeemer, among us with your word  
and thus now and hereafter true peace and joy afford.
- 4 Abide with richest blessings among us, bounteous Lord;  
let us in grace and wisdom grow daily through your word.

Text: Josua Stegmann, 1588-1632; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923. Music: CHRISTUS, DER IST MEIN LEBEN, Melchior Vulpius, 1570-1615.

## Prayers of the People

P: Fed by the abundance of Christ and sustained by the Holy Spirit,  
we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition*

P: Receive our prayers, O God,

**C: Your mercy is great.**

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God; confident in the promise of your saving love;  
through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

*Please be seated while the table is being prepared.  
We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.*

*An offering plate is available at the back of the sanctuary  
for those who would like to offer gifts as you leave worship today.*

## Meal

*Please rise as you are able.*

## Offertory Prayer

P: Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self,  
and called us to the feast of plenty.

Gather what has been sown among us,  
and strengthen us in this meal.  
Make us to be for others what we receive here,  
your body for the life of the world.  
**C: Amen.**

## **Dialogue**

P: The Lord be with you.  
**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.  
**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...  
... and join their unending hymn.

## **Sanctus**

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might:  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ...  
... be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**C: Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.  
**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.**

## **Fraction and Invitation**

### ***Agnus Dei* / Lamb of God**

**C: 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **Holy Communion**

- *For Holy Communion, we will not be kneeling at the altar rail due to the need for physical distancing.*
- *At the invitation of the usher, worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *The Communion bread/wafer is in small cups on the left side of the altar table as you come forward. Cups of wine (lighter liquid) and grape juice (darker liquid) are on your right.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament, following physical distancing guidelines.*
- *Everyone is asked to wait until you return to your place to consume the wafer and wine/grape juice, and then promptly replace your mask.*
- *Worshipers can place the paper cups in the receptacle by the door at the back of the sanctuary as they leave through the Centre and Morewood Ave. vestibule.*

## **Hymn during Holy Communion**

*Following Page*

## Hymn during Holy Communion

### Bread of Life from Heaven

*ELW 474*

#### Refrain

Bread of life from heaven,  
your blood and body given,  
we eat this bread and drink this cup  
until you come again.

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;  
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.  
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;  
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *Refrain*
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away;  
set your hearts on the food that endures.  
Come, learn the true and the living way,  
that the fullness of life may be yours. *Refrain*
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you,  
gave himself for the life of the world.  
Come to the one who is food for you,  
that your hunger and thirst be no more. *Refrain*
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you;  
make your home in the lifegiving Word.  
Know only Christ, Holy One of God,  
and believe in the truth you have heard. *Refrain*

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952. Music: ARGENTINE SANTO | BREAK NOW THE BREAD, Argentine traditional, refrain; Marty Haugen, b. 1950, stanzas. Text and music © 2001 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net # A-722139.

*When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.*

#### Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C: Amen.

## **Prayer**

P: Let us pray.

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table

more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## **Sending**

### **Blessing of Backpacks**

#### **Benediction**

P: The blessing of God,

who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✝ be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

*Abbreviations*

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister

L: Lector

**C: Congregation**

***ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal***

*Those serving in worship today*

Prelude and Hymnody

Cantor

Lector

Audiovisual Ministers

Director of Faith Formation

Presiding Minister

Lily Cai, Piano

Ian Brown

Lester Prince

Kristen Asplin

Christopher Atwood

Christopher Atwood

Pastor Ross Carmichael

*Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements*

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