

Faith Lutheran Church

August 26, 2018



*Those who eat my flesh and
drink my blood abide in me,
and I in them.*

JOHN 6:56, NRSV

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



- To make disciples for Jesus Christ. . .
.. **we Gather** in faith for worship, prayer,
study and fellowship
.. **we Equip** the people of God with a faith
that works in real life
.. **we Serve** the world in the name of Jesus Christ
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Faith Lutheran Church's Welcoming Statement:

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as a child of God. As Paul said in his letter to the Galatians, “for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26)
We strive to be a place where everyone is welcomed and affirmed.

No matter your age, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, faith background, political leanings, or mental or physical ability - you are welcome as you are. As children of God, we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide.

Email address

faith@faithlutheranokemos.org

Websites

Faith Lutheran Church ≈ www.faithlutheranokemos.org
North/West Lower Michigan Synod ≈ www.mittensynod.org
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America ≈ www.elca.org

Facebook

facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

You also can find the audio available on Faith’s website under worship
Sermons

Hungry for an Answer

One Sunday morning in a little village church, a man, sitting in a corner alone at the far end of the last pew, shouted at the preacher. His log-splitter voice cracked the sermon into pieces like a steel blade brings shivers to dark grain in a white oak stump. “I don’t understand! What do you mean?” Though many in the congregation thought it was a gimmick, planned for dramatic effect, the bewildered man in the pew was not a prop—he was hungry for an answer.

Today’s gospel, the fifth and last in a series of episodes that dwell on Jesus as the living bread of life, finds Jesus no longer on a grassy hillside or on the stormy sea. He is teaching in the village synagogue at Capernaum. Reactions are not favorable. Some of the disciples, bewildered and offended, balk at his words with a protest question: “Who can accept it?” (John 6:60). They are hungry for a reasonable answer. But Jesus won’t release the tension. He does not sort those who can from those who cannot “accept it.” Instead, he turns right back to the words he delivered, saying they are spirit and life. With that, he issues a challenge: “Do you also wish to go away?” (John 6:67).

Those two questions hang like cobwebs, practically invisible in darkness yet shimmering in light, holding on, waiting. They stretch and cling from the wide branches of Jesus’ inexhaustible readiness to give his very self to anyone who dares to believe that what he offers is life itself.

At the end, hungry for an answer, Simon Peter speaks for the twelve with one last and lasting question that broadcasts its own answer that had always been there; “Lord, to whom can we go?” (John 6:68).

Sunday, August 26, 2018

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction to the day

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.

If hearing assistance is needed, please ask an usher for a personal PA receiver.

The ushers also have large print copies of today's worship folder available.

If it will be difficult for you to stand along with the congregation during any part of the worship service, please feel free to remain seated.

There is a nursery available during the worship service for those who wish to use it. It is located at the end of the hall beyond the coat racks.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*We cordially greet all who have come to worship today.
Please register your attendance and join us in fellowship after the service.*

Prayer Requests

PRELUDE

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

arr. Alice Jordan

GATHERING

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

GATHERING SONG

Will You Come and Follow Me

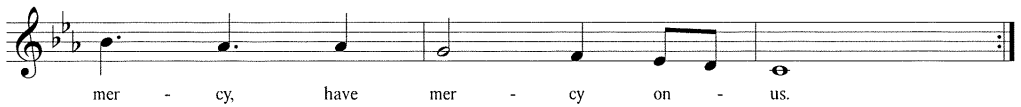
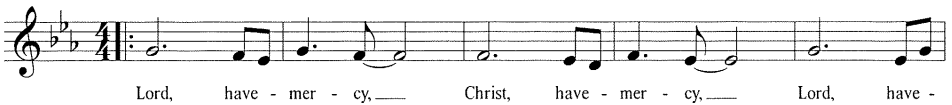
ELW #798

GREETING

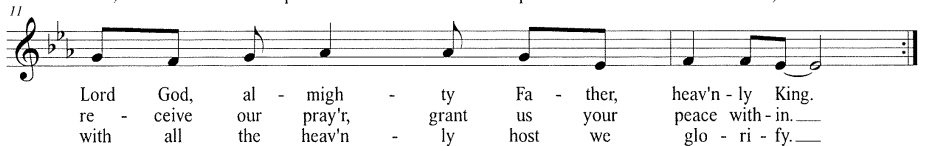
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



CANTICLE OF PRAISE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships 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 Joshua.

¹Then 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. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“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. ¹⁵Now 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.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for 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; ¹⁸and 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.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

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 Ephesians.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For 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. ¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray 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. ¹⁹Pray 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, ²⁰for 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Al - le - lu - ia, Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le - lu - ia,
4 you have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
8 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. _____

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those 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.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But 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. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW #810



**“Do this
in remembrance
of me.”**

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Prayers of intercession are prayed.

To each petition, the assembly responds:

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

*The presiding minister concludes the prayers,
and the assembly responds:*

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust,
knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

(arr. Shaw)

Emily Brown, Tammy Heilman, Deb Borton-McDonough, trio

OFFERING RESPONSE

Let The Vineyards

Let the vineyards be fruit - ful Lord, and

fill to the brim our cup of bles - sing. Gath - er the 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 in the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta -

- ble with your pres - ence, Lord, and give us a fore -

- taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Merciful God,

you open wide your hand

and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us.

Open our hands to receive it.

Open our hearts to embrace it.

Open our lives to live it.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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.

Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection,
you pour out the fire of your Spirit,

uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue.

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of
the resurrection,

with earth and sea and all their creatures,

and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are
6 full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the
11 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff contains the first line of music with lyrics. The second staff starts at measure 6 and includes two triplet markings over the first six notes. The third staff starts at measure 11 and concludes the piece with a double bar line.



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, Breath of life and Fire of love, with a mighty wind you brought creation into being, and by a pillar of fire you led your people into freedom. We praise you for the gift of your Son, who poured out your Spirit on his disciples of every race and nation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and the sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit, we await his coming again to renew the face of the earth. Send now your Holy Spirit upon us and upon

this meal: anoint us with your gifts of faith, hope, and love, that, with thankful hearts, we may be witnesses to your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen



LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May God, whose power working in us
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
grant you the gifts of faith and hope.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Lead Me, Guide Me

ELW #768

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“I’ll Fly Away”

arr. Mark Hayes

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Sisters & brothers in Christ, welcome to worship!
 May your time in the Lord be rich and blessed.

Pastor	Ellen Schoepf	prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
Secretary	Katie Love	klove@faithlutheranokemos.org
High School Director		Katie Love
Director of Music		Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist		Bruce Williams

Bi-Weekly Announcement packets are available in the narthex.

August 19, 2018 Attendance:

Serving Faith	August 26	September 2
Acolyte	Austin Jones	open
Altar Care	Michelle Ransom & Pam Williams	Melinda Schultz
Communion Assistants	Austin Jones	open
	Warren Heilman	Gus Lusis
	Diane Wilke	Zachary Hereza
Greeters	Bob Scholle	Bob Scholle
Readers	Warren Heilman	Gus Lusis
Lay Assistant	Diane Wilke	Zachary Hereza
Ushers	Schultz Family	Ken Schoepf
Nursery	Alexis Hereza	O'Brien Family

Altar Flower Dedications:

Sunday, August 26th

Altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Ken & Ellen Schoepf in celebration of their wedding anniversary.



Sunday School Begins on Sunday, September 9th! We are excited to see you at 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs

Sunday School wing. Sunday School classes are for kids in Pk-5th grade. Older kids are welcome to come and help as classroom assistants!

Rally Day is Sunday, September 9th!

Everyone is invited to join us following worship for a potluck downstairs in the fellowship hall. Membership Development will provide sloppy Joe's and mac and cheese and drinks. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to sign up to bring a side dish or dessert. Games will be provided for the kids. We look forward to the start of a great Sunday School year!



Meet Maddie!!

Hello all! My name is Maddie Wosinski and I will be starting my freshman year at Michigan State University in the fall. I will be studying to earn my certificate in Elementary Education with a highlight in History and Reading Specialist. I am so excited to be connected with this congregation and to be leading the Trinity classes for third-fifth grade students and Middle School LYO. My own father is the Director of Youth and Family Ministry at my home congregation in Muskegon, MI. I have been involved in many youth group activities including Middle School LYO, High School LYO, four years of the Michigan Gathering, yearly mission trips nationwide, and two National Gatherings. My hope is that through this ministry I will be able to form relationships with all of the students that I will meet. I firmly believe that youth group is a way that students can connect to their Christian community and a place where they can ask the tough questions. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Bring your kids and let's have some fun this year!

