

“THE WORDS THAT I HAVE
SPOKEN TO YOU ARE



**spirit
and life.”**

JOHN 6:63

August 22, 2021

10:15 Indoor Worship

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road

Okemos, MI 48864

517-349-0620

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Pastor:..... Ellen Schoepf
Music Director:.....Debra Borton-McDonough
Organist/Pianist:.....Bruce Williams
Church Secretary:..... Katie Love
Youth & Education DirectorPam Williams
Pastor’s email:.....prellen@faithlutheranokemos.org
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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.

PRELUDE

“Blessed Assurance”

arr. Dale Wood

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance,
let us confess our sin.

God, our provider,
help us.

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.

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. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

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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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT 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.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous.

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

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

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

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

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from everyone.

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

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

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

NEW TESTAMENT 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



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.”

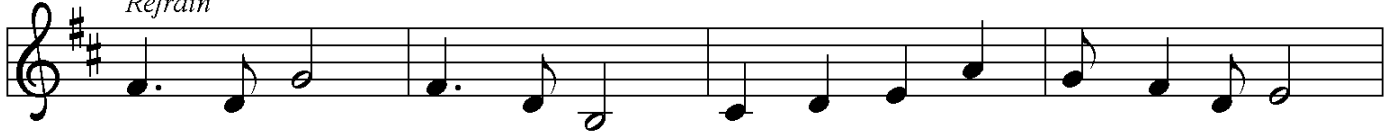
⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of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

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

SERMON

Rev. John Schleicher

Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup

Refrain

Eat this bread, drink this cup. Taste and see the good-ness of God.



Bread of life, cup of love, we re-joice in your pres-ence.



- 1 I will bless the Lord at all times, praise with heart and voice;
- 2 Look up - on the Lord, be ra - diant, nev - er turn a - way.
- 3 An - gels fold their wings a - round us, guard through good and ill.
- 4 Saints of God, bow down and wor - ship, bless the ho - ly name.

Refrain

in my God I glo - ry for - ev - er: lis - ten and re - joice!
 God will save in ev - 'ry af - flic - tion, hear us when we pray.
 Those who seek the Lord will lack noth - ing; taste, and have your fill.
 Rise to tell God's great - ness for - ev - er, won - drous deeds pro - claim!

Text: Jeremy Young, b. 1948, refrain; *With One Voice*, stanzas, based on Ps. 34

Music: STONERIDGE, Jeremy Young

Text and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

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:

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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

“Bread of the World”

(Mark Pope)

Choral Ensemble

OFFERING PRAYER

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 what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. 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-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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. **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

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

COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

arr. Alice Jordan

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

“Cornet Voluntary in G Major”

William Woland

Lay Assistant: Mike Eschelbach

Reader: Lois Neves

Ushers: Mike & Heidi Nussdorfer

Year to Date January – June 30, 2021

Income	\$ 133,403
Expenses	<u>\$ 141,547</u>
Net Income (Loss)	\$ (8,144)

If you have the ability to support the church's work during this time, please do so as you normally would. You can mail your check to Faith Lutheran, 4515 Dobie Road, Okemos MI 48864 or consider signing up for **"Simply Giving", our online offering tool**. Contact jon.harrison@comcast.net for more information on how to sign up.

8/8/21

Loose Cash	\$ 4.00
General Fund	\$ 1,885.00
Youth	\$ 267.72
Caring Comm.	\$ 100.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 1,214.32</u>
Subtotal	\$ 3,471.04
Simply Giving	
General	\$ 3,405.00
Building	<u>\$ 25.00</u>
Total	\$ 6,901.04

8/15/21

Loose Cash	\$ 25.00
General Fund	\$ 2,200.00
LWR Covid Relief	\$ 15.00
World Hunger	\$ 50.00
Caring Comm.	\$ 50.00
Parish House	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 2,390.00
Simply Giving	
General	<u>\$ 425.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,815.00

Please note that “Simply Giving” now has the option to donate to the Pantry Fund and the Roof Fund.