



# St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



## *The 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

*July 23, 2023*

*10:30 Service of the Word*

Today we have Jesus' Bread of Life Discourse. It follows him performing two miracles: the feeding of the 5000, and walking on water. The crowds are thrilled with Jesus, but for the wrong reasons. They want an easy life. Jesus will teach them that following him means something different.

*Welcome to worship today!*

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

# † GATHERING †

## Prelude and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.  
Merciful God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have hurt our community.**

**We have squandered your blessings.**

**We have hoarded your bounty.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Righteous God,

**C: we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have failed to be honest.**

**We have lacked the courage to speak.**

**We have spoken falsely.**

**In the name of Jesus,**

**forgive us and grant us mercy.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.

God offers boundless grace when we fail.

Claim the gift of God's mercy:

you are freed and forgiven in the name of Jesus the Christ.

**C: Amen**

### Gathering Hymn Just As I Am, without One Plea

*(For music see Hymn 592 in the Red Hymnal)*

- 1. Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**
- 2. Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many-a conflict many-a doubt,**

**fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**4. Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Greeting (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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.**

Gathering Dialog (Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

A: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

**C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

A: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

**C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,  
when you lie down and when you rise.**

A: One does not live by bread alone,

**C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this meal with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## † WORD †

### *Bible Reading* John 6

B: After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. <sup>2</sup>A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. <sup>3</sup>Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. <sup>4</sup>Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. <sup>5</sup>When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip,

E: “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?”

B: <sup>6</sup>He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. <sup>7</sup>Philip answered him,

D: “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”

B: <sup>8</sup>One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him,

D: <sup>9</sup>“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”

B: <sup>10</sup>Jesus said,

E: “Make the people sit down.”

B: Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. <sup>11</sup>Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. <sup>12</sup>When they were satisfied, he told his disciples,

E: “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”

B: <sup>13</sup>So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. <sup>14</sup>When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say,

**C: “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”**

B: <sup>15</sup>When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. <sup>16</sup>When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, <sup>17</sup>got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. <sup>18</sup>The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. <sup>19</sup>When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. <sup>20</sup>But he said to them,

E: “It is I; do not be afraid.”

B: <sup>21</sup>Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

B: <sup>22</sup>The next day the crowd that had stayed on the other side of the sea saw that there had been only one boat there. They also saw that Jesus had not got into the boat with his disciples, but that his disciples had gone away alone. <sup>23</sup>Then some boats from Tiberias came near the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. <sup>24</sup>So when the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. <sup>25</sup>When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him,

**C: “Rabbi, when did you come here?”**

B: <sup>26</sup>Jesus answered them,

E: “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. <sup>27</sup>Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

B: Then they said to him,

**C: “What must we do to perform the works of God?”**

B: <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered them,

E: “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

B: So they said to him,

**C: “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? <sup>31</sup>Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’”**

B: <sup>32</sup>Then Jesus said to them,

E: “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup>For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

B: <sup>34</sup>They said to him,

**C: “Sir, give us this bread always.”**

B: <sup>35</sup>Jesus said to them,

E: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; <sup>38</sup>for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup>This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see

the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day.”

B: <sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They were saying,

F: “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

B: <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them,

E: “Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

B: <sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying,

F: “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

B: <sup>53</sup>So Jesus said to them,

E: “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <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.”

B: He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

B: When many of his disciples heard it, they said,

D: “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”

B: <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them,

E: “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.”

B: 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,

E: “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

B: <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,

E: “Do you also wish to go away?”

B: <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him,

D: “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.”

B: <sup>70</sup>Jesus answered them,

E: “Did I not choose you, the twelve? Yet one of you is a devil.”

B: <sup>71</sup>He was speaking of Judas son of Simon Iscariot, for he, though one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Children’s Sermon

### Sermon

Hymn of the Day I Am the Bread of Life  
(For music turn to Hymn 485 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **“I am the Bread of life,  
You who come to me shall not hunger,  
and who believe in me shall not thirst.  
No one can come to me  
unless the Father beckons.”**

### *Refrain*

**“And I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.”**

2. **“The bread that I will give  
is my flesh for the life of the world,  
and if you eat of this bread,  
you shall live forever,  
you shall live forever.”** *Refrain*

3. **“Unless you eat  
of the flesh of the Son of Man**

**and drink of his blood,  
and drink of his blood,  
you shall not have life within you.”** *Refrain*

4. **“I am the resurrection,  
I am the life.  
If you believe in me,  
even though you die,  
you shall live forever.”** *Refrain*

5. **Yes, Lord, I believe  
that you are the Christ,  
the Son of God,  
who has come  
into the world.** *Refrain*

Text: John 6, adapt. S. Suzanne Toolan, SM; Music: S.Suzanne Toolan, copyright 1966 GIA Publications Inc.

*Response to the Word*

P: In Christ you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

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

**C: 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.**

E: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: pray in the Holy Spirit.**

(Jude 20)

E: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (Jude 21)

E: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away;**

**behold, everything has become new!**

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

### Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The pastor will begin the prayer with a petition and then invites the congregation to add additional petitions and thanksgivings. Please conclude your petition with: Lord in your mercy,*

*The congregation will respond: **Hear our prayer.***

*The pastor concludes the prayer:*

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

### Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us share that peace with one another.

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## † THANKSGIVING †

### Special Music

#### Hymn of Thanksgiving

Lord Let My Heart Be Good Soil

*For music turn to Hymn 713 in the Blue Hymnal*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,**

**open to the seed of your Word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,**

**where love can grow and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,**

**break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,  
warm it with the day.  
When my heart is lost,  
lead me on your way.  
Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart,  
Lord, let my heart be good soil.**

Text and music: Handt Hanson, b. 1950, Copyright 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing/Changing Church, Inc.

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray:

**C: Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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.**

✠ SENDING ✠

Blessing

P: The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.

**C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn* Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ  
(For music turn to Hymn 674 the Red Hymnal)

**1. Let us talents and tongues employ,  
Reaching out with a shout of joy;  
Bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.**

*Refrain (sung twice after each verse)*

**Jesus lives again,  
earth can breathe again,  
Pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

**2. Christ is able to make us one,  
At the table he sets the tone,  
Teaching people to live to bless,  
Love in word and in deed express.**

*Refrain*

**3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out  
Bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!**

*Refrain*

Text: Frank Kaan, b. 1929, Music: Jamaican Folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925-1980, Copyright 1975 Hope Publishing Company

*Dismissal*

**P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.**

**C: God's Work. Our Hands.**

**Worship assistants TODAY:**

Greeters and Ushers     John and Linda Thompson  
Acolyte  
Counters                     John and Linda Thompson  
Coffee Hour

**Worship assistants for next Sunday, July 30**

Greeters and Ushers     Helen Crown  
Acolyte  
Counters                     Bill and Katy Stimmel  
Coffee Hour

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