


9:00 A.M., SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.



Welcome to guests and visitors! *This pamphlet will guide your worship today. The assembly's parts are indicated by  and bold font. The vertical line in the left margin indicates when the assembly stands as each is able.*

About Holy Communion with Saint John Lutheran Church: "It is taught that the true body and blood of Christ are truly present under the form of bread and wine in the Lord's Supper and are distributed and received there" (Augsburg Confession, Article X)· "A person who has faith in these words, 'given for you' and 'shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,' is really worthy and well prepared." "Forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament" (The Small Catechism, Part VI)· "This church practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion" (The Use of the Means of Grace, Principle 50)·

Following the introductory verses, a welcome is made.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

 **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

 **Amen.**

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Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**☩ we confess
that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

☩ Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly* (ELW # 461)

**1 All who hunger gather gladly; holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring. Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness, all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**2 All who hunger, never strangers; seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming. Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

**3 All who hunger, sing together, Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing. Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.**

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of
God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

☩ Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

☩ Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

☩ And also with you.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts
before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need
with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior
and Lord.

☩ Amen.

FIRST READING: Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then the Lord said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to the Lord, for he has heard your complaining.’”

¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud. ¹¹The Lord spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 78:23-29

²³So he commanded the clouds above
and opened the doors of heaven.

**☞ ²⁴He rained down manna upon them to eat
and gave them grain from heaven.**

²⁵So mortals ate the bread of angels;
he provided for them food enough.

**☞ ²⁶He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens
and led out the south wind by his might.**

²⁷He rained down flesh upon them like dust and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

☒ ²⁸He let it fall in the midst of their camp and round about their dwellings.

²⁹So they ate and were well filled, for he gave them what they craved.

☒ He rained down manna upon them to eat and gave them grain from heaven.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:1-16

Paul writes: ¹I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said,

“When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.”

⁹(When it says, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

The word of the Lord.

☒ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

I will bless the Lord at all times;

☩ his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

My soul makes its boast in the Lord;

☩ let the humble hear and be glad.

Alleluia. One does not live by bread alone,

☩ but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 6:24-35

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁴When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were beside the sea, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

²⁵When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" ²⁶Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. ²⁷Do 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."

²⁸Then they said to him, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" ²⁹Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." ³⁰So they said to him, "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?" ³¹Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'He gave them bread from heaven to eat.'" ³²Then Jesus said to them, "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. ³³For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." ³⁴They said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always."

³⁵Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

The gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* (ELW # 618)

**1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore,
feed me now and evermore.**

**2 Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm,
shield me with your mighty arm.**

**3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore,
I will raise forevermore.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

☒ And also with you.

The assembly remains in place, as the service continues.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us God's people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**☒ 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

Each petition ends: Hear us, O God.

☩ Your mercy is great.

*The prayers conclude: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God ...
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

☩ Amen.

OFFERING PRESENTATION

*Offerings are received at the door as one enters. The offering is
presented for the work of Christ's Church, here and throughout the
world.*

OFFERTORY SONG: *Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful* (ELW # 184)

**☩ Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

OFFERING PRAYER

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

The table is set.

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

The minister continues, concluding: ... and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: Holy, Holy, Holy (ELW p. 153)

☞ Holy, holy, holy Lord,

Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. . . .

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

☞ Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

☞ Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION SONG: *Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)* (ELW p. 154)

**☞ 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, grant us peace.**

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Please remain seated where you are. The communion elements will be brought to you. The host is received in your open hand. The wine will be taken by you from an individual glass. Carefully place your empty glass on the pew until end of worship.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (78)

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

☞ Amen.

Hear my teaching, O my people;

☞ incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

☞ I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.

That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us,

☞ we will not hide from their children.

We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord,

☞ and the wonderful works he has done.

So he commanded the clouds above

☞ and opened the doors of heaven.

He rained down manna upon them to eat
☩ and gave them grain from heaven.

So mortals ate the bread of angels;
☩ he provided for them food enough.

He rained down flesh upon them like dust
☩ and winged birds like the sand of the sea.

²⁸He let it fall in the midst of their camp
☩ and round about their dwellings.

So they ate and were well filled,
for he gave them what they craved.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
☩ as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At the conclusion, the assembly responds:

☩ Amen.

BLESSING

Response after the blessing:

☩ Amen.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check web-sites and printed materials for further information.

SENDING SONG: O Living Bread from Heaven (ELW # 542)

**1 O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'er flows.**

**2 My Savior, you have led me within your holiest place,
and here yourself have fed me with treasures of your grace;
for you have freely given what earth could never buy,
the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die.**

**3 You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy.
And you have freely granted the cup of endless joy.
My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown;
and all my soul and spirit bow down before your throne.**

**4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened with heav'nly food, while here
my course on earth is lengthened, to serve you, free from fear;
and bring me home to praise you where none can peace destroy,
where I will ever raise you glad songs in endless joy.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

☞ Thanks be to God.

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Hungry for More

They were hungry, but they didn't know what they were hungry for. Their longing compelled them to cross the sea and comb through the villages in search of the one who could meet their deepest desires. They had seen the sign, after all—the baskets of leftover bread, the impossible abundance of fish. Surely, they must find the source to have their needs fulfilled once and for all.

Perhaps we too are hungry—for security, for certainty, for power, for recognition, for the simple assurance that we are good enough in a world that always seems to demand more. We too may find ourselves searching for the one who can calm our spirits or offer us those things on which our hearts are set. We cry out with the crowd, “Give us this bread always” (John 6:34). Care for us. Feed us. Help us. Reassure us. We have seen what you can do. Show us this sign again so that we may believe.

But God gives us more than bread; indeed, God gives us more than whatever we think we most desire. Jesus takes our questions and those things we think we need and redirects us to himself—the source of all life for the world. We ask for the things we most crave. Jesus offers us abundant life. We ask for what we can comprehend. Jesus gives us the promises of God that pass all understanding.

John's gospel invites us to dwell with Jesus in the mysteries of God. Not to understand exactly. Not to have our fill of the things we demand. But to abide with God. To be wrapped in the promises of the one who has been feeding the hungry and sustaining life since the very beginning, giving us life that cannot be earned but is simply received through Jesus.