

9:00 A.M., SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.



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: *O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts* (ELW # 658)

**1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts, the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**

**2 We taste you, ever-living bread, and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead; our thirsting souls from you we fill.**

**3 For you our restless spirits yearn, where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you turn,
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**

**4 O Jesus, ever with us stay! Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away! Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

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.

Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true
bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may
live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may
live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☩ Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:4-8

Elijah ⁴went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:1-8

¹I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

☞ ²I will glory in the Lord; let the humble hear and rejoice.

³Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord;
let us exalt his name together.

**☞ ⁴I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.**

⁵Look upon him and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

**☞ ⁶I called in my affliction, and the Lord heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.**

⁷The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear him,
and he will deliver them.

**☞ ⁸Taste and see that the Lord is good;
happy are they who trust in him!**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25--5:2

²⁵So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. ²⁶Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, ²⁷and do not make room for the devil. ²⁸Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share

with the needy. ²⁹Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. ³⁰And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. ³¹Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, ³²and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. ^{5:1}Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, ²and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Have regard for your covenant,

☩ for the dark places of the land are full of the haunts of violence.

Do not let the downtrodden be put to shame;

☩ let the poor and needy praise your name.

Rise up, O God, plead your cause;

☩ remember how the impious scoff at you all day long.

Alleluia. I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

☩ Whoever eats this bread will live forever. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 6:35, 41-51

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁵Jesus said to the crowd, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ⁴¹Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴²They were saying, "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'?" ⁴³Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. ⁴⁴No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. ⁴⁵It 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. ⁴⁶Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. ⁴⁷Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. ⁴⁸I am the bread of life. ⁴⁹Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. ⁵⁰This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. ⁵¹I 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

☩ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness* (ELW # 488)

**1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.**

**2 Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."**

**3 Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven**

Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.

4 Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.

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: God, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

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 (111)

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

☩ Amen.

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

**☩ ²Great are the deeds of the Lord!
They are studied by all who delight in them.**

³His work is full of majesty and splendor,
and his righteousness endures forever.

**☩ ⁴He makes his marvelous works to be remembered;
the Lord is gracious and full of compassion.**

⁵He gives food to those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

**☩ ⁶He has shown his people the power of his works
in giving them the lands of the nations.**

⁷The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice;
all his commandments are sure.

**☩ ⁸They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in truth and equity.**

⁹He sent redemption to his people; he commanded his covenant forever; holy and awesome is his name.

☞ ¹⁰The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who act accordingly have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

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: *Be Thou My Vision* (ELW # 793)

**1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.**

**2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.**

**3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

**4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

☞ Thanks be to God.

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A New Identity

In an increasingly polarized world, demographics are everything. Many of us rely on information about a person's hometown, family, alma mater, or workplace to make assumptions about their politics, social concerns, or lifestyle. Internet algorithms make inferences based on our age, gender, and relationship status to market products, services, or ideas to us. At times it feels like our lives are reduced to a statistic or a political party affiliation.

The crowds following Jesus knew who they were, and they thought they knew exactly who Jesus was too. They knew who his ancestors were, and they knew the stories of faith they all shared.

After all, Jesus was the neighbor boy—the carpenter's son. They had known him since he was just a kid. He was a simple Galilean peasant. He walked the same streets, fished in the same waters, and ate the same food as the rest of them.

And yet, he dared to claim a different identity: he was the bread of life, the living bread come down from heaven. His roots were not just in this rocky terrain of the Middle Eastern soil, but in the God of the cosmos. This is not what God was supposed to look like. This is not the powerful king they were waiting for. This was just Mary and Joseph's son. He was supposed to be one of them!

But this is the great mystery of our faith: God cannot be reduced to an algorithm or a stereotype. God dwells in the people we least expect, in the most ordinary places, in people scandalously like us and outrageously different than us. God abides with us, defying our expectations, challenging our self-proclaimed identities by offering us the bread of life in Jesus Christ. In this holy bread, we are given a new identity more powerful and enduring than any other in this world: child of God, beloved and whole; in God, of God, and with God for all of eternity. Thanks be to God.