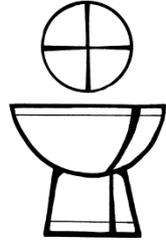


9:00 A.M., SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.



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.

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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.

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: *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* (ELW # 858)

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!

**Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**

2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3 Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

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.

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☞ Amen.

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,

⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!”
To those without sense she says,

⁵“Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord.

☞ Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:9-14

⁹Fear the Lord, you that are his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.

**☞ ¹⁰The young lions lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

**☞ ¹²Who among you loves life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your tongue from evil-speaking and your lips from lying words.

☞ ¹⁴Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in mortals.

**☩ It is better to take refuge in the LORD
than to put confidence in princes.**

Alleluia. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me,

☩ and I abide in them. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

The holy gospel according to John.

☩ Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said, ⁵¹“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.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “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. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those 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."

The gospel of the Lord.

☞ Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *I Am the Bread of Life* (ELW # 485)

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."

"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."

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

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."

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

4 "I am the resurrection, I am the life.

If you believe in me,

even though you die, you shall live forever."

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

5 Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God,

who have come into the world.

"And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up, and I will raise you up on the last day."

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: Lord, in your mercy,

☞ hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray . . . through your Son, 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. The following is sung during the presentation.

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 is received by individual glass, taken from by you the offered tray. Carefully place your empty glass in the pickup tray.

BLESSING & POST-COMMUNION PSALM (119)

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

☞ Amen.

Happy are they whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord!

**☞ Happy are they who observe his decrees
and seek him with all their hearts!**

I treasure your promise in my heart, that I may not sin against you.

**☞ Remember your word to your servant,
because you have given me hope.**

This is my comfort in my trouble, that your promise gives me life.

**☞ How sweet are your words to my taste!
They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.**

Your word is a lantern to my feet and a light upon my path.

**☞ I am as glad because of your promise
as one who finds great treasure.**

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: *Praise and Thanksgiving* (ELW # 689)

**1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.**

**2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.**

**3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.**

**4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

☒ Thanks be to God.

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What's for Dinner?

Whether you plan meals weeks in advance, rummage through the pantry for inspiration at 4:30 p.m., or pull a stack of well-worn takeout menus from the kitchen drawer; whether you purchase the ingredients, help create the meal, or have no input at all and gratefully eat whatever someone else provides, it's a seemingly universal question: What's for dinner? What we eat is important. Most of us try to balance our personal tastes and preferences with some attention to health and nutrition. Some of us follow specific dietary trends and plans: keto, paleo, low-carb, low-cal . . . the list goes on. Others of us, restricted by tight budgets and food deserts, make choices we would rather not.

What we eat, how it was raised and grown, how it got from the farm to our table, and even how much it costs are hot topics today. It can be easy to get lost in the wilderness of these discussions. But along comes Jesus, right on time. Turning the world's conversation on its head, he boldly announces, "My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink" (John 6:55). Here our debates about fat versus carbs, allergens and alternatives, and the price of ingredients are brought to a halt: the menu is set.

Here there is no lack of access or money, for all is freely given. Here the stresses of planning, shopping, and cooking on a tight schedule fade away in the light of eternity as the great heavenly banquet is set before you. As you approach the table, you approach the Lord of your salvation, here in flesh and blood. As you receive the bread and wine, you receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for you. As you return to the world and your various vocations, know that no matter what is for dinner, you abide in Christ, and he abides in you. Truly, this is "true food" and "true drink."