

ORDER OF SERVICE

Evangelical Lutheran Worship ~ Setting IV

10:30 AM

INTRODUCTION

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

ENTRANCE HYMN

"You Are the Way"

ELW 758

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity: the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Sisters and brothers, bear with one another in love, maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, and take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Holy and gracious God,

C **we confess that we have not led a life worthy of the calling to which we have been called. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not acted according to your will. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. Have mercy on us. Forgive us according to the riches of your grace. Make us holy and blameless before you in love, so that we might live to the praise of your glory. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. You who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

C: **Amen.**

GREETING

P The blessing of the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious grace freely bestowed in the Son, and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE Amazing Grace

ELW 779

Amazing Grace!-How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Holy God,

C: 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.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

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. ²And 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.”

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

(Read Responsively)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

**¹⁶The 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.

**¹⁸The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

**²⁰God 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 righteous¹ will be punished.

**²²O LORD, you redeem the life¹ of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will¹ not be punished.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

The military language in this passage calls to mind the power of the Roman Empire in the first century. Followers of Christ are to put on the armor of God and remain strong in the face of cosmic evil forces.

Be 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel, according to John, the sixth chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"

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."

P. The Gospel of Our Lord

C. **Praise to you, O Christ**

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

ELW 810

APOSTLES' CREED

**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.**

THE PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

A: Holy One, you grace your people with powerful gifts; stir us to use these gifts in your service wherever you send us. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You created the earth and all that is in it; move us by your love to care for the land, water, and air. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You breathed life into the first human creatures; breathe your peace into all people. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You open your arms to all in love; open us to care for the poor, malnourished, exhausted, injured, disabled, sick, and dying in your name. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You dedicate yourself to your people. Come to the aid of our community and to all gatherings of your people. We pray especially for St. John in Russell, Missouri; First in RockPort; Overland Park Lutheran in Overland Park; and the Laotian Ministry in Olathe. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

A: You formed the Church to announce your word of life to all. Bless the ELCA that we may proclaim the good news, tell of your love, and as one body use our hands for your work in this world. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Here other prayers are offered.

A: Your light shines through the saints of all ages. Comfort the grieving, especially Lee Lundquist and gather us all with Karen and your saints at your feast that has no end. God of mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Loving God, you hear us when we cry to you. We commend to your embrace all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ and by the power of your Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful
Offering Song



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Holy God,

C: you open the doors of heaven, giving us every generous and perfect gift from above.

Lift our eyes from the food that perishes, and nourish us now with the food that endures for eternal life, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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...And so with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name, saying:

C: Holy Lord, Mighty God, Lord of All, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Lord, come, save your people.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth...we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. 154

P: Remember us in your Kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

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.

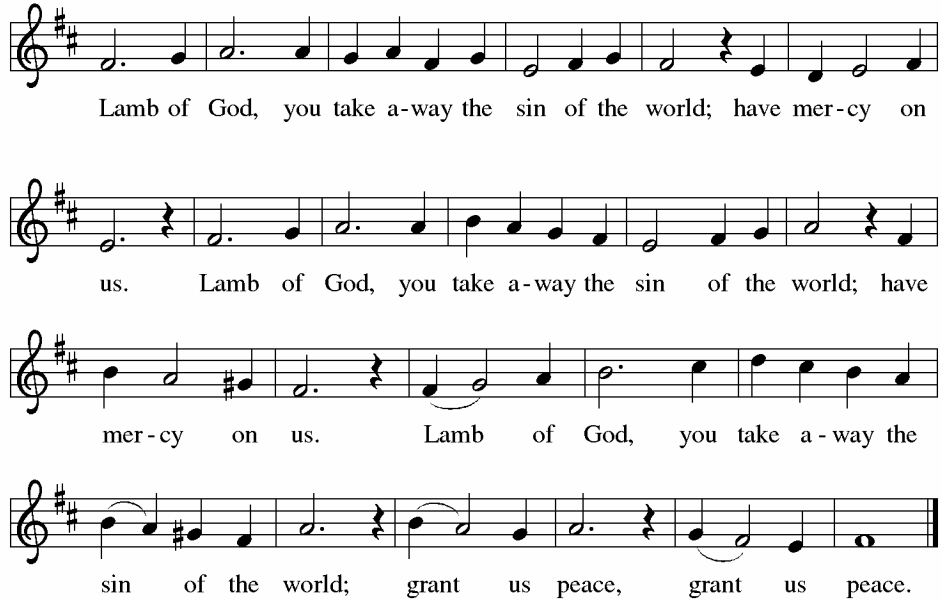
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

Forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
 us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN “*Blessed Assurance*”
 “*O Savior, Precious Savior*”

ELW 638
 ELW 820

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in grace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Gracious God, in this meal you have rained down the true bread from heaven, the body and blood of your beloved Son. So by this promise bring us to abide in him, and he in us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

BENEDICTION

P Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN

“*Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart!*”

ELW 873

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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