



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, August 22, 2021

13th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

WELCOME/ANNOUCEMENTS

Noisy offering chosen by Parish Ed: MLM sack lunch program & new mulch for the playground



RITE FOR COMMISSIONING STEPHEN MINISTERS

Fred Ahlemann

PRESENTATION (Donna)

Leader: Dear brother, you have been equipped to serve as a Stephen Minister at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Listen now to the words we find in scripture.

"Praise be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward, It is the Lord Christ you are serving". (Colossians 3:23-23)

REQUESTS (Jeannine)

Leader: You have been comforted by God with the Good News of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection for you. We ask you now to join in serving our Lord and those in our congregation and neighborhood who need to be comforted.

As the Lord Jesus took the burdens of the world on his shoulders and has been a friend to you in troubled times, we ask you to be a friend to those who are burdened under the stress of daily life. As the Lord Jesus patiently listens when you turn to him, we ask you to be a patient listener in a hurried world.

As the Spirit of Christ has given you gifts for service, we ask you to use your skills and talents to help those people whom you serve and to pray for them. As the Lord Jesus has shown his care to you, we ask you to help this congregation grow as a caring community through your own caring ministry.

VOWS (Ruth Ann)

Leader: Are you prepared to meet those requests that we ask of you?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Are you prepared to nurture the skills you have learned and use them in service to others--to support, encourage, build up, and comfort people in all their needs?

Answer: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: *(addressing the congregation)* Now, we ask you, members of St. Mark's, to open your hearts to the ministry of Fred and to pray for him, that he may be effective servant of Christ. Are you prepared to meet this request? If so, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: We also ask you to accept his ministry when you need help, to allow him to work with you as you face struggles in your life, that you might receive support and help from your Christian brother. If you are prepared to meet this request, answer, "Yes, with the help of God."

Congregation: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Are you prepared to serve as Stephen Ministers at St. Mark's?

Trainees: Yes, with the help of God.

Leader: Come forward now and receive a blessing.

BLESSINGS (Donna)

Leader: May you share Christ's ever abundant love with others so that they and you may grow in his wholeness. May the Lord Jesus, who has graciously called you his disciple, now strengthen you by his Spirit for your ministry in and to his world.

Blessed is the person whose strength is in Lord Jesus--may you ever find strength in him for your ministry and your life. Stand firm on the foundation of Jesus Christ, and he will be faithful to you.

Blessed is the person who trusts in the Lord.

As God loved us in Jesus the Christ, may God bless you as you share with others the love you have received from God. Go out into the world in peace, have courage, and love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

May the Spirit dwell in you richly, filling you with joy and peace and courage for all your endeavors in the Lord's service. May the Lord Jesus be present with you in every place as you carry his name and serve him. May Christ, the rock of our salvation, equip you to be a living stone in all your life.

COMMENDATION (Jeannine)

Leader: Because you have promised faithfully to serve the Lord Jesus and his people as Stephen Ministers, I commend you to the care and guidance of the Holy Spirit as you in turn care for others. Work hard. Use the skills you have learned, releasing the gifts and talents the Spirit of God has given you so that you might be a blessing to the people you meet and care for. Continue to study. Reflect upon the situations you encounter. Pray for the people whose lives you are privileged to share. Be free to share your own personal frustrations and needs with others so that you might receive the same kind of care and love you offer others. Act boldly and without fear, for Christ is with you. And “may the God of peace sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

PRAYER (Pastor)

We pray: Oh God, we ask you to take our brother into your care. You have blessed him with particular gifts and talents and have provided him with an opportunity to learn more about helping people. May he serve you with the power of the Holy Spirit; may he be quick to serve, patient in listening, willing to share himself with people. Give to us thankful hearts for him and show him in times of stress and satisfaction a special measure of your mercy and joy. Keep him strong in the faith you have given him for the sake of Jesus, who cares for all of us in every way forever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 504, vs. 1 & 4

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.

4 God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
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KYRIE Pg. 98

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, 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

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

¹Then 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. ^{2a}And 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; ¹⁷ for 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; ¹⁸ and 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.”

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous. (Ps. 34:15)

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The 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.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

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

²⁰**God 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 righteous will be punished.

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

¹⁰Be 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.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

The Holy Gospel, according to John, the 6th Chapter.

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, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He 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.” 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.”

CHILDREN’S SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 810, vs. 1 & 2

O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Jesus, I have promised
to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me,
my master and my friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway
if you will be my guide.

2 Oh, let me feel you near me;
the world is ever near.
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear.
My foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer
to shield my soul from sin.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816-1874, alt.

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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(A Brief Silence)

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give

you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE share God's peace

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy pg. 108

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG p 112



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 494

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

- 1 For the bread which you have broken,
for the wine which you have poured,
for the words which you have spoken,
now we give you thanks, O Lord.
- 2 By this promise that you love us,
by your gift of peace restored,
by your call to heav'n above us,
hallow all our lives, O Lord.
- 3 With the saints who now adore you,

seated at the heav'nly board,
may the church still waiting for you
keep love's tie unbroken, Lord.

- 4 In your service, Lord, defend us;
in our hearts keep watch and ward;
in the world to which you send us
let your kingdom come, O Lord.

Text: Louis F. Benson, 1855-1930, alt.
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray.
Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God,
who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,
✠ be upon you now and forever.
Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 638

Blessed Assurance

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love.
Refrain

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.780.6408 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

St. Mark's members:

Clarence Linsey,
George McElroy,
Nan Wolfe,
Pete and Linda Cagle,
Kathy Hinkle,
Shane Paulson,
Ron & Ann Gardner,
Janet Schmidt,
Susan & Bill Roberts,
Phyllis Dettmer,
Madison Young

Family & friends:

Craig Downing, Father of Joni Benz,
Jane Clark, Daughter of the Andersons,
Suzie, Aunt of Nancy Bryer,
Glenda Kirk, friend of Joyce Johnson,
Randy Borg, nephew of Joyce Johnson,
Family of Paul Heath, cousin of Don Anderson,
Jenny Mack, Niece of Jenny Wheeler,
Chris, Brother of Pete Cagle,
Corey, Son of Jim & Mary Weeg,
Marilyn, Sister-in-law of Mary Weeg,
Shirley, friend of the Weegs,
Amber Smith, friend of Pete Cagle,
Family of Kathy, cousin of Barb Nail,
Iris Howard, friend of Pete Cagle,
Evie Whitehill, friend of the Andersons,
Steele McLaren, friend of the Luins,
Leo Patton, Grandfather of Jason Howe,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Bruce Campbell, Brother-in-law of Joni Benz,
Lena Shelton, friend of the Schmideskamps,
Crissy, cousin of Tom Bryer ,
Caroline, aunt of Nancy Bryer ,
Peggy Hinkle, Step-Mother of Kathy Hinkle,
Stephanie Herndon, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Tim Eiter, Father of Todd Eiter,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,

Shirley, neighbor of Mary Weeg,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Aeris, Great Niece of Tom Bryer,
Katherine Gile, sister of Anne Gardner,
Karen Bannister, friend of Jane Scherrer,
Rob Boulter, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Goodheart,
Joan Nelson, Sister-in-law of Linda Goodheart,
Dean Taake, Joyce Johnson's brother,
Gibby, friend of Erica Bryer,
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Judy Wendt, Jeannine Matthew's
sister-in-law,
Donna Poppe, friend of St. Marks,
Rosemary Williams & her sons Wayne & Wade
Beck,
Brooke Harris, friend of Gretchen Goodheart Stewart,
Dan Ostergaard - friend of the Goodhearts,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
Jackson Werth, friend of the Bott/Bollinger Families,
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,
Ivan, brother of Jane Stresewski,
All People affected by natural disasters

Those in the Military:

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thompson,
Logan Peck, nephew of Karen and Stan Thompson,