

St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Crossroads (ELCA)

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Sunday, August 26, 2018
Season after Pentecost
Holy Communion

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.



LET YOUR GUARD DOWN,
LET GOD IN,
BE AMONG FRIENDS

WELCOME . . .

We are privileged to have you as our guest in the Lord's house this morning.

We pray that the time you share with us will be meaningful for you and that God will bless you through it. If you have a question that is not answered here, please don't hesitate to ask someone around you.

Registry: Please take time to complete the registry/attendance sheet found in the pew in the black folder at the center aisle. It is important to us that we know who is worshipping with us today. Thank you.

Worship: This booklet is our order of worship for today. Hymns are found in the "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" hymnals located in the racks on the back of the pew in front of you. Everything else is printed in this booklet.

Our worship includes **Holy Communion**. As Christians in the Lutheran heritage, we believe that our Lord Jesus is physically present "in, with, and under" the bread and wine we receive. However, if you believe that Jesus' body and blood were given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins, you are welcome to commune with us, regardless of your faith background. A white grape juice is available at the center of the tray for those who do not wish to receive wine.

If you desire to receive communion but are unable to come forward to the communion rail, inform the usher of such and communion will be brought to you.

. . . WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

Ministers: The people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Crossroads	
Pastor:	Pastor Creighton
Greeters:	Roger Westerfeld and David Westerfeld
Accompanist:	Kathy Westerfeld
Acolytes:	Emily Borgman and Isabelle Westerfeld
Assisting Minister:	Karen Salvitti
Reader:	Karen Salvitti
Communion Assistant:	Art Salvitti
Sound System:	Brandon Borgman
Offering Counters:	Gary Westerfeld and Gene Krieger
Altar Committee:	Virginia Westerfeld

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace

draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God † forgives you all your sins.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Come, Thou Almighty King*

ELW 408

GREETING

The presiding minister and assembly greet one another.

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lead by the assisting minister

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come before him with thanksgiving, and extol him with music and song!

For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods.

In his hand are the depths of the earth; and the mountain peaks belong to him.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our

maker!

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the flock under his care.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the rock of our salvation!

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

ELW p. 139

A canticle of praise may be sung by all.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

♪ Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

The presiding minister leads the 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.

The assembly is seated.

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.

A reading from the twenty-fourth chapter of Joshua.

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; 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.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22

The psalm is read responsively by verse.

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.

A reading from the sixth chapter of Ephesians.

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 assembly stands to acclaim the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 142

**♪ Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

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?”

The holy gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

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

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer.

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

That God bless the church universal in every place, inspiring strength and courage to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God the creator bless wild animals and family pets, prairies and kitchen gardens, beaches and sandboxes, mountains and hearths, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God spread the gospel throughout the nations of the world, announcing the words of eternal life to peoples in every land and country, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God remember the poor and the brokenhearted and rescue all those in trouble, especially those listed in the bulletin and prayer book, and those we name aloud or in our hearts at this time, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God protect members of this congregation along all our ways and empower us to serve Christ in sincerity and faithfulness, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

That God redeem the lives of those who have served in the faith and raise them up, according to the promises of Jesus Christ, the bread that nourishes eternal life, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray and all for whom we have forgotten or neglected to pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. After the offering is gathered, the assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.



Create in Me a Clean Heart
Offering Song



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

After the table is set, the assisting minister leads a prayer.

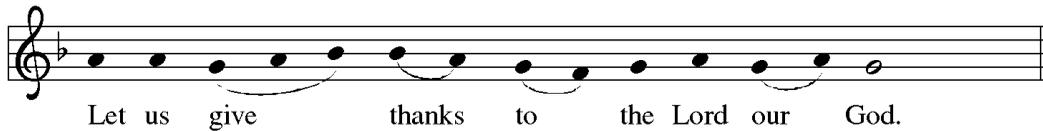
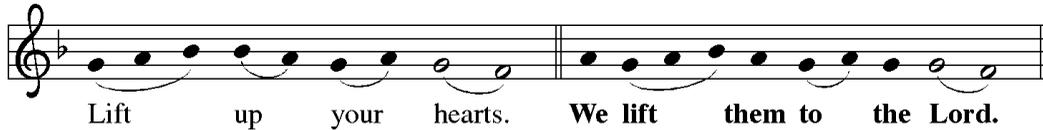
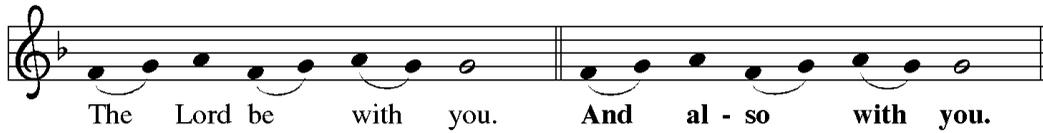
Let us pray together.

Merciful God,
**you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.
You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open
our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE

ELW p. 144

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.



PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...
... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW p. 144

**♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The presiding minister continues.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God,
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in invitation.

The assembly is seated.

All are welcome at Christ's table! If you are a visitor and receive communion at your home church, you are invited to do so here. Everyone is invited to receive communion or a blessing.

COMMUNION SONG

ELW p. 146

**♪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.**

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

After Holy Communion has been distributed, the assembly stands and the presiding minister may say:

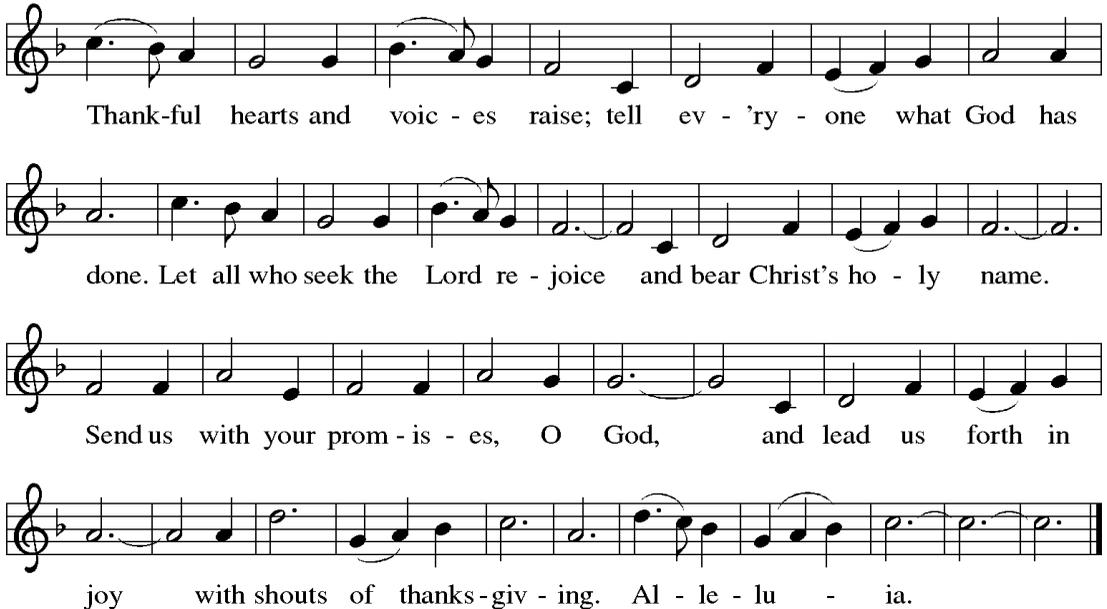
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION:

Thankful Hearts and Voices

ELW 206



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has
done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in
joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress and music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

The assisting minister leads the assembly in prayer after communion.

Let us pray.

Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

ELW 879

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister may address the assembly.

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

**We are a family of believers who meet together to:
enjoy life together
worship and learn about God
make a difference in the world.**

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We remember in Prayer:

Carol Bergman

Aaron Nicholson

Todd Siebert

Sarajane Wilson

Art and Karen Salvitti

Marlin and Julia Siebert

Steve Reen (neighbor of the Macks)

Ruth Booster (wife of former pastor)

Melody Briner (Marilyn Gausman's daughter)

Zach Briner (Marilyn Gausman's relative)

Lois Bastien Brown (Tim Salvitti's grandmother-in-law)
Marie Dierckman (Ginny Low's mother)
Bonnie Haughn (Sabrina Salvitti Haughn's mother-in-law)
Leonard (husband of Lisa Gausman's friend)
George Lerosé (Art Salvitti's brother-in-law)
Stella Long (Paul Gausman's sister)
Tessa Mayer (wife of Wanda Siebert's principal)
Bekah Netherton (daughter of Debbie Mack's friend)
Ronnie Nicholson (Darrell's brother)
Barry Norman (Lisa Gausman's former principal)
Carol Rayve and Ron Price (Karen Salvitti's mother and friend)
Ted Rayve (Karen Salvitti's brother)
Beverly Richardson (Laura Nicholson's mother)
Kristina Salvitti (Art's daughter)
Gary Schopmeyer (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Charlie Seibert (friend of Anita and Bob Krieger)
Mike Trenkamp (Tim Mack's brother-in-law)
John Ward (Eunice Sisson's brother-in-law)
Travis Wenning (son of former BHS Ag teacher)
Jasmine Westerfeld (Sharon Brown's great-granddaughter)
Melinda Wilson (wife of Ben Wilson)

anyone affected by natural disasters, warfare and violence
all who serve in the military

Honored Members: Allen and Mary Lou Narwold Bill Westerfeld

Our members at St. Andrew's: Julia Siebert Ruth Thackery

Our Partner Churches: Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark and St. John
Lutheran Church, Napoleon

Today:

Eagerly we welcome you and yours to God's house. May we all strive to be children of God here on Earth.

Newsletters are available in the narthex. Please take yours – and any for your family – as you leave this morning.

This Week:

Office Hours – Monday	10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Pr. Creighton’s office hours – Monday – Thursday	8:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Tuesday – SEIC Clergy meeting	10:00 AM
Wednesday - Pr. Creighton in Indy for FLTE	
Thursday – Choir practice	7:00 PM
Sunday - Sunday School	9:00 AM
Worship Service	10:00 AM

Upcoming Events / Announcements:

Sunday, September 9th is **God’s Work, Our Hands** Sunday. One facet of the day will be to collect materials to be sent to Scarborough Elementary School in Houston, TX. Our youth and leaders at the National Youth Gathering worked with them in service during their time there. Please see the handout in the narthex concerning items needed. We will be collecting until September 16th for this outreach ministry.

There are numerous **events taking place** in Batesville in the next few weeks. Please see the bulletin board for more information about them.

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