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Worship **August 15, 2021**

GATHERING **GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS** **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Call to Worship

Pastor: Come, People of God, and let us worship Jesus the Christ.

Reader: Let us worship the eternal God, the Source of love and life, who created us. Let us worship Jesus the Christ, the risen one who lives among us. Let us worship the Spirit, the Holy Fire, who renews us. Let us worship the one true God who is to be praised in all times and places.

Opening Hymn – “Where Shall We Go?”

Greeting

P The peace of the Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P May the risen Christ fill us with life, light, and hope.

C Thanks be to God. The Spirit teaches us, inspires us, and gives us the voice of the Gospel. Amen.

Hymn of Praise – “Alleluia! Raise the Gospel”

THE WORD

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,
'You that are simple, turn in here!'
To those without sense she says,
'Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight.'

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Psalm 34: 9-14

O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

Reader: Here what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm Response – “O Taste and See”

Gospel Reading

John 6: 51-58

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.’

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ So, 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. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This 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.’

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – “By Your Hand You Feed Your People”

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that God has established the Church, and will preserve and protect it, and will provide us with a foretaste of our greatest hope.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church and died and rose again in His resurrection, to give eternal life through our baptism into Christ.

We believe that the Holy Spirit breathed fire and life into the Church at Pentecost and still provides power for its preservation and ministry.

We believe the Church is the community of disciples, using their gifts freely and wisely for the common good of the body and to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ until He comes again. Amen.

Prayers of the People

As we are guided by the Spirit, let us offer our prayers for the church, for the nation, for all in need, and for our world.

A brief silence

Pastor: Gracious God, in this time of worry, fear, division, uncertainty, we pray that you will bring insight, compassion, understanding, and strength of character to our leaders of communities, churches, states, and nation that calm and direction will be restored to our people. Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great

Pastor: Gracious God, we pray that we shall use wisely all the gifts of our world: the water that provides life to us all; the land that provides our food; for you call us to be good stewards of all that you have made, and we ask that you let it be so. Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great

Pastor: Lord, we pray for the safety of all who protect us: police officers and firefighters, military personnel, peacekeepers, and for the leaders of governments. We pray that all act with justice and understanding to all whom they encounter. And Lord, we pray for the time when peace will come, and violence will be no more. Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great

Pastor: We pray for our world, nation, and community in the midst of this Covid-19 pandemic. We know that health care workers have to make difficult decisions of life and death. Give them wisdom in those decisions. Give strength that they may give care to those suffering with Covid and other diseases, and we ask that you would protect them from illness and despair. We also pray for all who are ill here at Bethany and we ask for your hand of wholeness and healing; comfort and strength for all who are ill of body, mind, or spirit. Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great

Pastor: On this day Lord, we ask that you be with Pastor Sandy as she prepares to become the new Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church. Be with her as she travels from Texas to her new home here in Scottsdale. Hear us O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Listen to each of us Lord, as we come to you in this moment of silent prayer.

It is into Your hands, great and compassionate God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

All: Amen.

Offering

Offertory – “Make Me a Servant”

Prayer of Blessing

Pastor: Let us pray:

C: Gracious God, we give our best, lest in gaining the world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to witness to your will and way. Help us to know more clearly what you would have us do with the gifts entrusted to our care. Direct us according to your will O God. Amen.

MEAL

A Brief Confession

Pastor: Drawn to Christ and seeking God’s abundance, let us confess our sins and hear again, Christ’s words of forgiveness.

A brief silence

C: Too often Lord, we question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn instead to our own understanding rather than trusting in You. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again Lord, to you. Where else can we turn? Enable us Lord to help to hear your words for us and to enable us to be light and life for our world. Lord we confess that we have not always lived up to the covenant that you have made with us, and we ask for your forgiveness. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved People of God, through Jesus the bread of life, the light of the World, you are forgiven all of your sins, and you are loved into the life with Christ.

All: Amen.

Pastor: The love of Christ has gathered us as one, to remember Christ, the Son of God, who loved his own until the end.

C: In His great, unselfish love, the Lord who calmed the storms and turned water into wine, stooped to a servant’s duty and washed his disciples’ feet.

Pastor: When we are gathered here, let us be drawn together by His passion. Let no love be less than His.

C: Let us follow Christ’s example and serve one another as He first served us. For by this, the world will know that we are Christ’s followers, if we love one another.

Pastor: On the night He was betrayed....

The 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.**

Communion Invitation

Pastor: Come to God's table; be fed and satisfied.

C: We come to feed our spirit and be in the presence of God.

Communion Music – “Do This in Memory of Me”

Kristan

Communion Blessing

Pastor: Let us pray:

C: 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.

SENDING

Benediction

***Pastor: May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ fill you with every good blessing.
Amen.***

Closing Hymn – “On Our Way Rejoicing”

Dismissal

Paster: Go in Peace...to live and serve in the way of the cross.

Response: Thanks be to God.