

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00

August 22, 2021

Zion Lutheran Church Camas, Washington

Ministers: the entire congregation

Susan Dollinger, Associate Pastor

Pam Ensley, Youth Minister

Karen Rezabek, Praise Team

Patricia Hagensen, Administrative Assistant

Church office 834-4201; email

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Hours: Mon 8-12:00, Tues-Fri 8-5:00

“As a welcoming Body of Christ, we celebrate and share God’s saving grace for all.”



Prelude

Gary Ritter

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 and Announcements

Stand – if standing is difficult please feel free to remain seated

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Most merciful God,

C: ***we confess that we are in bondage 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.***

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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.***

Sit

Opening Hymn “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” v. 1-3 Number 533

1. Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there, where my soul in joyful duty waits for God who answers prayer. Oh, how blessed is this place, filled with solace, light, and grace!
2. Gracious God, I come before thee; come thou also unto me; where we find thee and adore thee, there a heav’n on earth must be. To my heart, oh, enter thou, let it be thy temple now!
3. Here thy praise is gladly chanted, here thy seed is duly sown; let my soul, where it is planted, bring forth precious sheaves alone, so that all I hear may be, fruitful unto life in me.

WORD

Bible Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Then 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.”

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Responsive Reading

Psalms 34:15-22

L: The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and God's ears are open to their cry.

C: ***The face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.***

L: The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them and delivers them from all their troubles.

C: ***The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those whose spirits are crushed.***

L: Many are the troubles of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them from every one.

C: ***God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.***

L: Evil will bring death to the wicked and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

C: ***O Lord, you redeem the life of your servants, and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.***

Bible Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

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.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: ***Thanks be to God.***

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

Gospel Reading

John 6:56-69

Jesus said, "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 the Lord.

C: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

Sit

Children's Message

Message

Pr. Susan Dollinger

Stand

Hymn of the Day

"Blessed Assurance"

Number 638

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*

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

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.

(After each petition, P: Lord, in your mercy, C:hear our prayer.)

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

Peace

P: The peace of the Risen Christ be with you always.

C: ***And also with you.***

Sit

Special Music "Be Still, My Soul" Jean Sibelius, Katharina von Schlegel

Prayer of Preparation

P: Jesus, Bread of life,

C: ***you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.***

Stand

Words of Institution

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.

Invitation to Communion

Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace, now and always. ***Amen.***

Prayer after Communion

P: Jesus, Bread of life,

C: ***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.***

Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace. ***Amen.***

Sending Song "On Our Way Rejoicing" Number 537

1. On our way rejoicing gladly let us go. Christ our Lord has conquered; vanquished is the foe. Christ without, our safety; Christ within, our joy; who, if we be faithful, can our hope destroy?

Refrain:

On our way rejoicing, as we forward move, hearken to our praises, O blest God of love!

2. Unto God the Father joyful songs we sing; unto God the Savior thankful hearts we bring; Unto God the Spirit bow we and adore, on our way rejoicing now and evermore. *Refrain*

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: ***Thanks be to God!***

Today's Flowers **Mary Ann & Kenneth Eichler**

In celebration of our 59th wedding anniversary

SERVICE

Usher

Norm Bembenek

Lector

Laura Greulich

Musicians

Gary Ritter, Judy Swanson

Altar Guild

Marilyn Anderson, Florence Faraone, Barbara West

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"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, tr. Catherine Winkworth; Music: UNSER HERRSCHER, Joachim Neander

"Blessed Assurance"

Text: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp

"Be Still, My Soul"

Text: Katharina von Schlegel, tr. Jane Borthwick; Music: Jean Sibelius

"On Our Way Rejoicing"

Text: John S. B. Monsell; Music: HERMAS; Frances R. Havergal