

The Armor of God

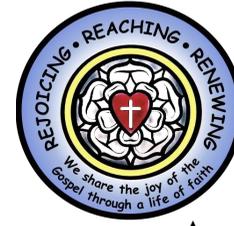
Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17



Z N B Y Y D L A A S E Y G Y I
 B G Z N R S Y F H P H V D O R
 J B N O W B M F B W E I I Y D
 U O W D Y H U H U P A A E L J
 X S P M E F E E T L M I C L B
 S T A N D V G L H W L X S E D
 S U K M P J A M R F Y V N T D
 A D B U C K L E D L Q C N G Q
 L N M N N H A T M A E Y S O A
 V D U D B W H J T M J E Y S A
 A I O T X E W F F I D S M P R
 T P Y W P R L M A N L U Q E R
 I K A R M O R T I G J D P L O
 O U P B R E A S T P L A T E W
 N N S P I R I T H M C T U J S

HELMET	ARMOR	SPIRIT	SWORD	STAND
WAIST	SALVATION	BELT	FEET	FAITH
FULL	GOD	EVIL	FLAMING	PEACE
GOSPEL	BREASTPLATE	SHIELD	BUCKLED	ARROWS



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

319 South 5th Street, Albion, Nebraska 68620

www.zionalbion.org + office @zionalbion.org+ 402-395-2043

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am-4pm; Fri: Office Closed

August 25, 2024 + The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

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.

+ GATHERING +

Prelude

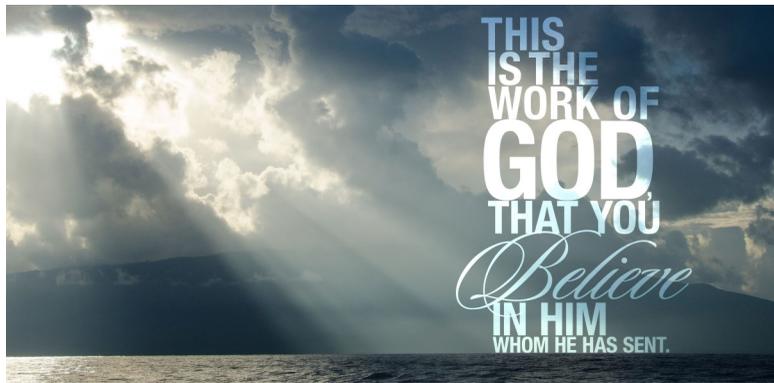
(The prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for worship.)

Welcome

Welcome to Zion Lutheran Church in Albion! We offer a warm welcome to all who are worshipping in person or by way of Vyve Cable Channel 21 and Facebook Live. We hope that you encounter a word of God's grace and love in this worship service.

Holy Communion will be celebrated today. At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Christ are welcome to share in the Lord's meal. Holy Communion will be distributed in person or by pre-packaged elements. If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please pick up the communion elements as you enter worship. We will partake of the sacrament as directed by the pastor within the worship service. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak with an usher. Gluten Free wafers are available on request.





The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Confession & Forgiveness

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

“I am the Bread of Life,” says Jesus Christ.
 “Whoever eats of this bread will never die.”

**If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just,
 will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Prepare to be invited to the banquet of the Lord.

(Silence for confession and self-examination.)

Most merciful God,
**even in our homes and families
 we have failed to serve you as we promised.
 Only you have the words of eternal life;
 we hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 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.**

The Bread of Life was given for the life of the world.
 In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us
 and for his sake our sins are forgiven.
 Whoever comes to him will never hunger;
 whoever believes in him will never thirst.
Lord, give us that bread always! Amen.

The Armor of God

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
U	M	A	I	E	S	R	Z	O	Q	F	D	V	G	X	L	W	H	K	C	T	N	J	P	Y	B

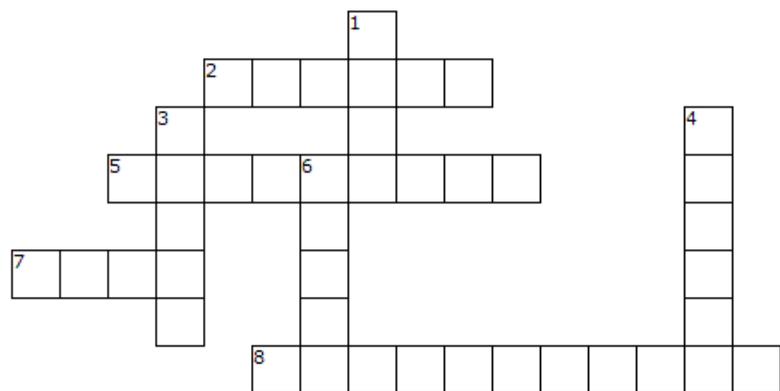
1. 26-5-16-21 _____
2. 11-5-5-21 _____
3. 17-9-7-12 _____
4. 11-3-4-21-18 _____
5. 6-17-9-7-12 _____
6. 6-18-4-5-16-12 _____
7. 6-3-16-13-3-21-4-9-22 _____
8. 26-7-5-3-6-21-24-16-3-21-5 _____
9. 3-7-2-9-7 _____
10. 18-5-16-2-5-21 _____

SALVATION	FEET	SWORD	WORD	FAITH
HELMET	SHIELD	BREASTPLATE	ARMOR	BELT

The Armor of God

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6:13

Based on Ephesians 6:13-17



ACROSS

2. A piece of metal carried to protect the front of the body
5. To deliver from the penalty of sin
7. A flexible band of leather or cloth, worn around the waist
8. A piece of armor that covers the breast

DOWN

1. The body parts at the end of the legs
3. Trust or confidence in God
4. A hard hat that covers and protects the head
6. A covering of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

FAITH	HELMET	BREASTPLATE	ARMOR
SHIELD	BELT	SALVATION	FEET

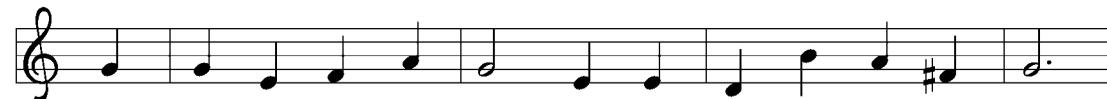
Gathering Song

Lead On, O King Eternal!

#805



- 1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
- 2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
- 3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917
Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879
Public Domain

Opening Litany

- O Christ, the Word Made Flesh,
the words that you share with us give us life.
- O Christ, our defender against the devil,
the words you share with us bring us protection.
- O Christ, our shelter from the storms of life,
the words you share with us inspire us to serve you more and more.
- O Christ, the giver of good things,
the words you share with us are the Good News of salvation from sin.

O Christ, the one who brought us to faith in the first place,
the words you share with us keep us strong in our faith.

O Christ, our blessing from above,
**the words you share with us
keep us connected to our Father in heaven.**

O Christ, the Word Made Flesh,
**the words you share with us will last from this life into the next.
Alleluia! Amen!**

Apostolic Greeting

The blessing of the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the glorious love bestowed by the + Son,
and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Hymn of Praise

Father, I Adore You

W&P #37



1 Fa - ther,
2 Je - sus, I a - dore you, lay my life be -
3 Spir - it,



fore you; how I love you.

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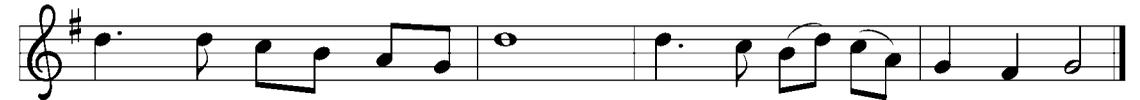
Prayer of the Day

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

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.**



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

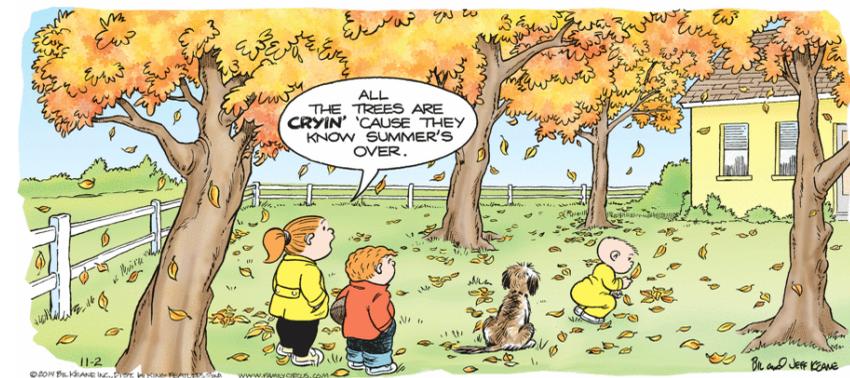


feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might-y arm, shield me with your might-y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.
Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932
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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



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Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray... *(A brief silence is kept.)*

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 ✠

Announcements

Benediction

May you go as God's people who are blessed to be a blessing.
May you go in the name of Jesus to touch and heal the hurt around us.
May you go with a strong presence of God's Holy Spirit
to be light and love to all the world.
May you go in the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

#618



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

✠ WORD ✠

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 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 34:15-22

Let us read Psalm 34 responsively.

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.

19 Many 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.

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

22 O 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 Ephesians.

10 Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. **11** Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For 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. **13** Therefore 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. **14** Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. **15** As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. **16** With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 Pray 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. **19** Pray 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, **20** for

in our hearts. Knowledge and faith and life im-mor-tal Je - sus your guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed and con-
Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure, formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,
and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands your
bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise. church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent., para. F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.
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Music: attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561; Public Domain

Distribution Hymn

You Are the Way

#758

1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.
Music: Psalter, Edinburg, 1615
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Lord's Prayer

Let us pray together as Jesus taught us...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

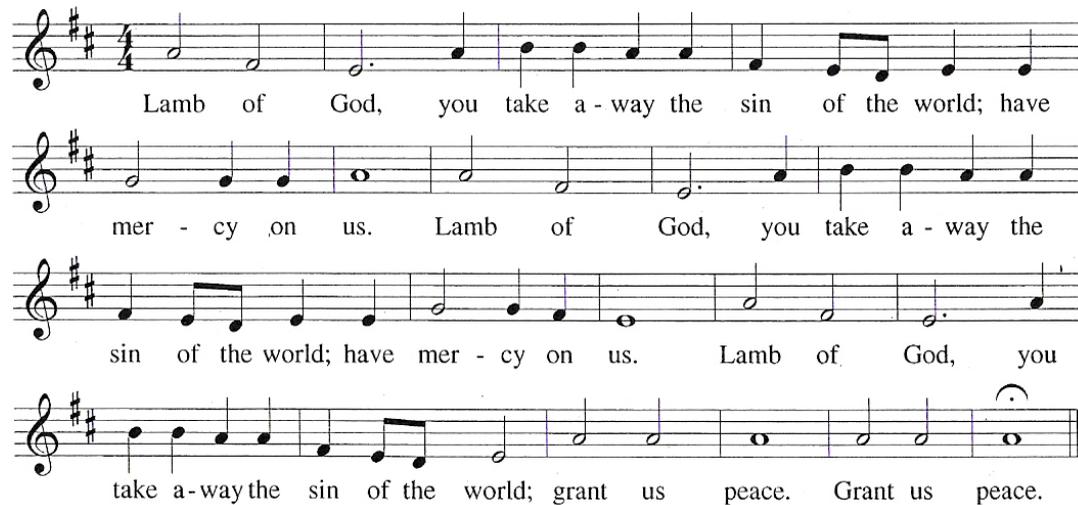
**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God

Family 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.

Distribution

If you are joining us from home or are taking communion from your seat:

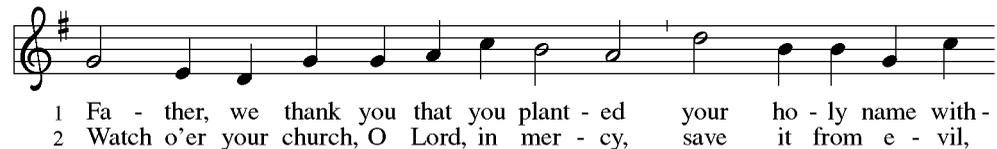
The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, shed for you. Amen.

Distribution Hymn

Father, We Thank You

#478



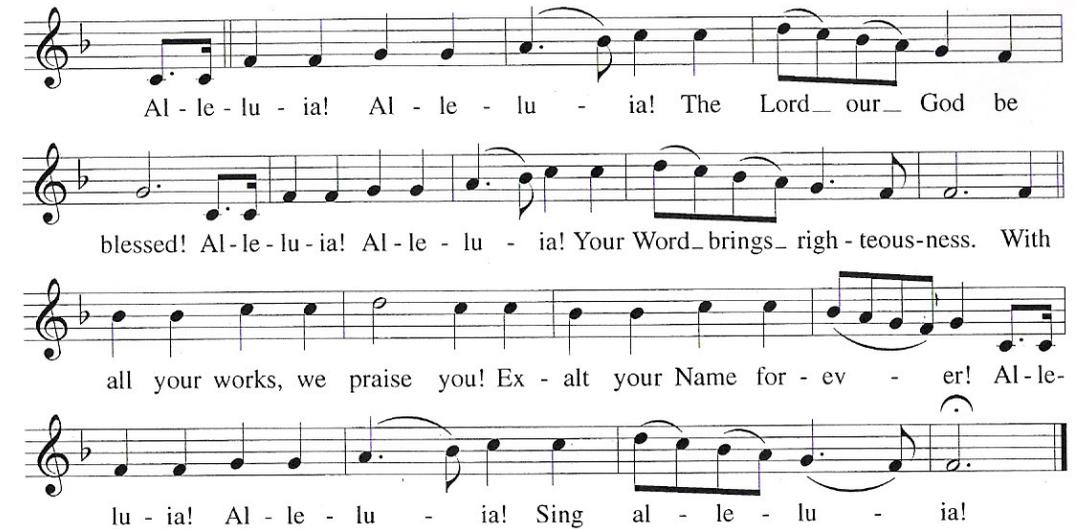
1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -
2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,

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.**

Alleluia Verse

Family of God



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! The Lord_ our_ God be
blessed! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Your Word_ brings_ righ - teous-ness. With
all your works, we praise you! Ex - alt your Name for - ev - er! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Sing al - le - lu - ia!

Holy 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 6th 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.**

Children’s Time Sermon

Hymn of the Day *O Word of God Incarnate* #514



1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,
2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;
3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:
and still that light is lift - ed o’er all the earth to shine.
to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,
It is the chart and com - pass that, all life’s voy - age through,
oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery into sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you; broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

*“Take, eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
*“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me,”*

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
That we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory
and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

the true Bread of Life, come down from heaven
 that we might eat and not die, but be raised on the last day
 and share forever in the feast to come.
 And so, with all who bear your name on earth
 and all who praise you name on high,
 we join our voices in the everlasting hymn:

Sanctus *Holy, Holy, Holy* *Family of God*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, our God of pow'r and might, — Sing
 ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Heav'n and earth are full of your maj - es -
 ty! Ho - san - na in — the high - est! Blest is he who
 comes in the Name of the Lord! Sing loud, — Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the
 high - est! Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!

Eucharistic Prayer & Words of Institution

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 Though he was rich, yet for our sakes he became poor.
 When hungry and tempted, he refused to make bread for himself
 that he might be the bread of life for others.
 When the multitudes were hungry, he fed them.
 He broke bread with the outcast but drove the greedy out of the Temple.



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.
 Music: Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
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Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 the People

P Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds,
 let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

(A brief silence is kept.)

A Holy God, you have the words of eternal life.

Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word.

Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized
 in faithful speech and bold witness.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word.
 We pray for all who remind us
 of our interconnectedness with all living things.
 Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy,
 and local climate justice advocates.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle,
 guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world.
 Bring about fruitful conversation among your people
 and bring about change where you see fit.
 Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you.
 Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief.
 Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy.
 Care for those on our hearts, *especially...*
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year.
 Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence.
 Move us to do all that is necessary
 to ensure a safe future for our children.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P Here other intercessions may be offered either aloud or in silence.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving
 all who have completed their baptismal journeys.
 Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully
 until our journey's end.
 Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God.
 Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ OFFERING ✠

Offering Response

Your Vineyards, O Lord

Family of God

1. Your vine - yards, O Lord, may they
 (2.) gath - er the hopes and the

bear fruit for you. Please fill our cup full of your
 dreams of all here; U - nite them in pray'r with these

bles - ing, we pray. And gath - er a har - vest from
 of - f'rings we bring. Pre - side at our ta - ble, and

what you have sown, That we may be fed with the
 grant us, we pray, A fore - taste of your prom - ised

bread of life. 2. Now
 feast to come. A - men.

✠ MEAL ✠

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.



Proper Preface

Always and everywhere you are worthy of thanks and praise,
 Almighty, All-providing God, through our Lord Jesus Christ,