

Salem Lutheran Church

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AUGUST 22nd, 2021 ~ SEASON OF PENTECOST LECTIONARY 21

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 & WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP *Read responsively by half-verse. Congregation uses bold print*

You are the treasured people of the Lord,

A people holy to the Lord our God.

Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

One does not live by bread alone,

But by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **And, also with you.**

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

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.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 34:15-22 *We read responsively by whole 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.

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

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.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

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.**

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

ELW 620 vs 1 & 3

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
in a believer's ear!

It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
and drives away all fear.

Dear name! The rock on which I build,
my shield and hiding place;
my never-failing treasury, filled
with boundless stores of grace.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

Music: Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799-1877

Tune Name: St. Peter

Public Domain

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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

PEACE

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

BLESSING

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

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Be the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

*****ANNOUNCEMENTS*****

We give thanks to you Salem Choir for leading us in music! And, we give thanks for Cathy Hoefler and the gift of music she adds to the worship service.

Altar Flowers are given by Ruth Phoebus in recognition and thanksgiving for her daughter Laura's birthday.

Our Daily Bread ~ Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and for your generosity. Next casserole pick-up will be Friday September 3rd.

Sing to the King Wednesdays (last one) – August 25th at 7:00PM at Salem. Refreshments and fellowship follow afterwards.

September 12 – Celebration of God's Work Our Hands - Grandparents and Church Picnic Sunday! More details about this day will be in September's Newsletter. Check the Picnic sign-up list in Narthex today.

September 19 - Rally Day & Backpack Blessing

Mason Dixon Food Pantry ~ Thank you for donating non-perishable food items for folks in the community. The collection bin is located under the coat rack in the Narthex. Thank you Sarah for delivering the food items!

Interested in online giving to Salem and her ministries? Check out Salem's website

Salem's Fall Craft Fair and Flea Market is slated for Oct. 2nd ~ Contact Lynn Cox. Signup sheet will be in the narthex by next Sunday.

Want to spread encouragement? Let's send notes / cards of care to:

Sterling Care Riverside

C/O Charles Phoebus

1123 Belcamp Garth ~ Room 219A* Note room change

Belcamp, MD 21017

Ongoing Prayer Concerns: David, Mila & Maddox, Mary Anne Hollman, Mary Jane Fignisky, Ray Hebert, Daisy Lukens, Steve Awalt, Tony Garner, Ed Insel, Jumela Beecher, Lauren, John Dorsett, Cathy Preston, Elfriede Kiesling, Lance Graham, Debbie Connor, Judy Newsome, baby Diana, Gloria Mallard, Brent Przychoda, Cathy Marowski, Georgia Coleman, Cindy Miller, Charlie Phoebus, Austin Phoebus (military), Deana Vanhart, Faith LeBrun, Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Thelma Preisinger, Brenda Baker, Donna Glorioso, John Bragg, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Donna Miller, Bruce Greer, Debbie McDonald, Michelle Harshman, Lisa Barwick, Nick Carmichael, Walt Karoll, Marianna Putnam, Dawn Weaver, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Betty Burnet, Carrie Claus, Dorothy Long, Bailey Law,

Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret Shank, Jim McNicholas, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealoover, Kaidyn Jamison, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikan, Joyce Craig, Kattie Hale, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Nick Wingate, and Jeanie Z., Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

Contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates to prayer list.

Please contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates concerning the prayer list.

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