



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 15, 2021 9:30am



ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Grape Juice is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Brochures can be found at each door. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – In Luther’s Small Catechism, we are reminded in the Third Article of the Creed of the fact that faith is not something we can conjure up, figure out, or decide on our own, “by my own reason or strength.” The fact that faith is the work of God in your heart through God’s Word, through the Gospel, is what lies behind our Readings today. At first we may think that Joshua and Jesus are contradicting this fact. Joshua bids the people, saying, “Choose this day whom you will serve,” the Lord or the other, foreign gods. In the Gospel many of Jesus’ disciples quit following Him because they couldn’t figure out what He meant by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. Jesus turns to His inner circle of disciples, the Twelve, and asks, “Do you want to go away as well?” We are relieved to hear Peter’s response and even sing it ourselves in some of our liturgies, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” We agree with Peter’s choice.

But was it the Israelites’ choice when they vowed, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods”? As for Peter, we know his reputation of declaring strong words of faith but then not understanding and then even denying his Lord. So on what does our faith and hope depend? Not that we have chosen God “by my own reason or strength,” but that God has chosen us. The more we remember our inability to believe, the greater we can recognize the miracle when we confess, “I believe.”

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance Jesus is mine
O what a foretaste of glory divine
Heir of salvation purchase of God
Born of His Spirit washed in His blood

***CHORUS: 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***

Perfect submission perfect delight
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight
Angels descending bring from above
Echoes of mercy whispers of love ***CHORUS***

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 ***CHORUS***

Confession and Absolution

- C** I confess to almighty God our Father that I have sinned by allowing other things to become more important to me than God. I have trusted more in myself, my possessions, my works, and my own desires. I confess that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him. Therefore I pray that He come to me in His Word and Spirit to forgive me and enlighten and keep me in the true faith. Amen.

P Almighty God has had mercy on you and has come to you in the person of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. For the sake of His death and resurrection for you, God forgives you all your sins and gives you the strength of faith to serve Him in all faithfulness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

He Touched Me

Shackled by a heavy burden
'Neath a load of guilt and shame
Then the hand of Jesus touched me
And now I am no longer the same

***CHORUS: He touched me
Oh He touched me
And oh the joy that floods my soul
Something happened and now I know
He touched me and made me whole***

Since I met this blessed Savior
Since He cleansed and made me whole
I will never cease to praise Him
I'll shout it while eternity rolls ***CHORUS***

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Old Testament Reading

Joshua 24:1–2, 14–18

¹Joshua 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. ²And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'Long ago, your fathers lived beyond the Euphrates, Terah, the father of Abraham and of Nahor; and they served other gods.

¹⁴"Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, 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 fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in 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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34:12-22

¹²What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good?

¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.

¹⁴Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry.

¹⁶The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

¹⁷When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

¹⁹Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

²⁰He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken.

²¹Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

²²The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

Epistle

Ephesians 5:6–21

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. ⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

I Surrender All

All to Jesus I surrender
All to Him I freely give
I will ever love and trust Him
In His presence daily live

***CHORUS: I surrender all
I surrender all
All to Thee my blessed Savior
I surrender all***

All to Jesus I surrender
Humbly at His feet I bow
Worldly pleasures all forsaken
Take me Jesus take me now ***CHORUS***

All to Jesus I surrender
Make me Savior wholly Thine
Let me feel the Holy Spirit
Truly know that Thou art mine ***CHORUS***

All to Jesus I surrender
Lord I give myself to Thee
Fill me with Thy love and power
Let Thy blessing fall on me ***CHORUS***

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Verse

John 6:68

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

Holy Gospel

John 6:51–69

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵¹I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because

of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?”

⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Breathe

This is the air I breathe
This is the air I breathe
Your holy presence living in me
This is my daily bread
This is my daily bread
Your very word spoken to me

***And I I'm desperate for You
And I I'm lost without You***

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“The Wisdom of Faith” based on John 6:51–69 OUTLINE

1. Sophia = Greek for “wisdom. The Bible describes worldly, unspiritual, demonic wisdom as really deadly foolishness. “Wisdom from above” is a wisdom that “...is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” Do you recognize the difference between the world’s wisdom and the Wisdom from above?
2. The dangerous things the world foolishly thinks are wise:
 - unscientific, unnatural LGBT and gender ideologies – bullying people into compliance
 - pushing Critical Race Theory (CRT), which ***IS*** racist.
 - pushing Marxism and other forms of “woke” garbage
 - refining marriage
 - denying life to a whole class of humans in order to kill them in the womb

3. *"So the final conclusion would surely be that whereas other civilizations have been brought down by attacks of barbarians from without, ours had the unique distinction of training its own destroyers at its own educational institutions, and then providing them with facilities for propagating their destructive ideology far and wide, all at the public expense. Thus did Western Man decide to abolish himself, creating his own boredom out of his own affluence, his own vulnerability out of his own strength, his own impotence out of his own erotomania, himself blowing the trumpet that brought the walls of his own city tumbling down, and having convinced himself that he was too numerous, labored with pill and scalpel and syringe to make himself fewer. Until at last, having educated himself into imbecility, and polluted and drugged himself into stupefaction, he keeled over--a weary, battered old brontosaurus--and became extinct."* – Malcolm Muggeridge
4. What wisdom doesn't look or sound like...
5. Saving Faith actually produces what we can call "The Wisdom of Faith,"
 - a. founded upon and sourced from our Triune God.
 - b. The Wisdom of Faith is exclusive and will get push-back from the world.
 - c. Even some Christians can fall into the trap that doctrine and Biblical truth do not matter. Proper doctrine matters because it is a matter of life and death. To some, even to believers, living your faith out loud can seem unwise, bad for business, foolish and worse.
 - d. There are others who wrongly just use their feelings and emotions to guide their understanding and living of life... and they're offended by challenges, responding unkindly to challenges of their beliefs instead of a mature, engaging response.
6. The group that turned on Jesus and left were a huge group of His followers! This still happens today when God's Word of Truth – His Law – contradicts them...
7. God's Law is acts like a curb, mirror, and guide. A few examples how God's Law is broader than man's natural understanding:
 - a. God's command against murder includes more than just murdering someone!
 - b. God's command against adultery includes more than just a spouse having an affair. It includes ALL SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIGE, which is exclusively between and a biological male and biological female. (Yes, shacking up is a sin as it goes against God's design and will for sex and marriage. If you are shacking up – repent and stop.)

8. The Wisdom of Faith:
 - a. is ageless. God's Infallible Word of Truth has not changed or expired... no matter where you live.
 - b. looks and sounds like a humble, repentant confession...
 - c. looks to and clings to The Law and Gospel – Jesus and His promises...
9. The cross is God's unchanging, everlasting Wisdom. The world doesn't get it and thinks it is all foolishness. But it is an issue of the heart.
10. Many churches and denominations use worldly wisdom in trying to make themselves more relevant instead of more solidly Biblical.
11. To the world, the Wisdom of Faith looks like failure and defeat of a dead man on a cross, but the Wisdom of Faith, which only comes from God, enables us to trust Jesus at His Word.
12. The Wisdom from above sounds like Victorious Jesus' Words of Law and Gospel calling us to a life of daily repentance... to turn away from what He calls sin... calling us to a love and life that can only be found in Him – and Him alone! The Wisdom of Faith hears Jesus and takes Him at His Word!

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P *What does this mean?*

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

MEN – Lord God our Father, we praise You for the gift of salvation and life by faith in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Because of our total helplessness, we especially thank You for the very faith with which we receive and hold fast Your promises. Continue to strengthen our faith. Enable us to serve You with the praise of our lips and our service to our neighbors. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

WOMEN – Be pleased to shine the light of Your love and salvation on all people through the service of Your people, the Church. Bless and enable all preachers of Your Word to boldly call out to all, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

MEN – Awaken and guide all earthly rulers to lead people in the ways of peace and justice that Your Word may be preached and taught freely among the nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – Give us spiritual understanding and faith in Jesus as the living bread that came down from heaven, that believing in and receiving Him both through His Word and the Supper of His body and blood, we may live forever now and at the day of the resurrection of all flesh. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

MEN – Surround with Your healing, saving grace all who are in doubt or disbelief, those who are troubled, those who are distracted by the cares of life, those who are ill, and those who mourn. Draw them to the true light of life who came to seek and to save all. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

WOMEN – We give thanks to You, Lord of life, for all those who have served You with their lives in this world and have gone before us with the sign of faith. You have the words of eternal life; You are the one, holy God. Bring us to be with them in our heavenly home. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who taught us to pray:

C **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.**

Offering – DURING THE OFFERING: Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a Worship Card so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Mighty To Save

Ev'ryone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Ev'ryone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

***CHORUS: Saviour He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave***

So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Ev'rything I believe in
Now I surrender ***CHORUS***

***BRIDGE: Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King
Jesus
Shine your light and let the whole world see
We're singing
For the glory of the risen King***

Benediction

P The Lord your God has saved you from the slavery of sin and preserved you in all your ways.

C Amen.

P He has given you faith to believe and His Son's very body and blood to give you life.

C Amen.

P Understand what the will of the Lord is, and be filled with the Spirit.

C Amen.

P The blessing of almighty God, the Father and the ☩ Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and go with you now and all your days.

C Amen.

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