

## Prelude

### GATHERING

#### Gathering Hymn

“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”

Hymn No. 527

#### Greeting

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

#### Prayer of the Day

*(Together)* **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.**

### WORD

#### Teaching Moment

#### Children’s Sermon

#### First Lesson

Joshua (24:1-2a, 14-18)

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2a</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup> “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. <sup>15</sup> Now 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.” <sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup> for 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; <sup>18</sup> and 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.”

*After the reading:)* The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

#### Reading Responsively– Psalm 34: 15-22 (Lector and People)

<sup>15</sup> The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,  
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

<sup>16</sup> **The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

<sup>17</sup> The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.

(Continues on next page)

(2)

<sup>18</sup> **The LORD is near to the brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup> Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

<sup>20</sup> **God will keep safe all their bones;  
not one of them shall be broken.**

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

<sup>22</sup> **O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

## Second Lesson

Ephesians (6:10-20)

<sup>10</sup> Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

*(After the reading:)* The word of the Lord. **R/ Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Page 188

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

## Holy Gospel

John (6:56-69)

*(Spoken after the announcement)* **R/ Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>56</sup> "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that

(Continues on next page)

which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”<sup>59</sup> He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. <sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?”<sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you?”<sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?<sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But 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. <sup>65</sup> And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?”<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

*(Spoken after the reading)* **R/ Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon

Pastor Krista Zimmermann

### Hymn of the Day

“Around You, O Lord Jesus”

Hymn No. 468

### Apostles Creed

*(Together)* **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 Intercession

With confidence in God’s compassion and generosity, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of God’s creation.

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

Into your loving hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**R/ And also with you.**

### MEAL

### Offering

“Portrait of a Trumpet”

S. Nestico

Ric Weiss

**Offering Prayer**

*(Together)* **God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

Page 190

**Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy, mighty, merciful Lord... Be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

Traditional, Page 191  
Right Hand Column

**Invitation**

Jesus said, "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." All are welcome.

**Lamb of God**

Page 191

**Distribution**

We invite all baptized Christians and visitors of all denominations, even the youngest, to the table of the Lord. Children who desire a blessing rather than receiving the bread and the wine should stand with folded hands to indicate their preference. Please follow the ushers' directions to one of several communion stations in the sanctuary. If you need to have the sacrament brought to your pew, please inform an usher. Receive the wine or indicate a preference for grape juice by asking the server or pointing to the center of the tray.

**Distribution Hymns**

"Let Us Break Bread Together"  
"What Feast of Love"

Hymn No. 471  
Hymn No. 487

**Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**R/ Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

*(Together)* **Wise and generous God, we thank you that at this holy table you have fed us again with the food of everlasting life. Send us with your blessing to seek the good of our neighbor and call others to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## SENDING

### Benediction

Almighty and merciful God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless, preserve, and keep you  
this day and forevermore.

**Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

“O Living Bread from Heaven”

Hymn No. 542

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in love, as Christ loved us.

**R/ Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude



*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.*