

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

ORGAN PRELUDE Let us Break Bread Together arr. by Charles Callahan

Please stand

HYMN 504 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

C: Amen.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

FIRST 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. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. "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. 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." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; 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; 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."

R: The Word of Our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 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. Take the helmet of salvation, and

the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 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. 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, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

R: The Word of The Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

S205a



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

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This 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." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 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. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father." Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

ANTHEM "Deep River"

Soloist: James Hopkins

Pianist: Mark Meuser

SERMON

Pastor Seth Jersild

HYMN 494 "For the Bread Which You Have Broken"

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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 CHURCH

Response: P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

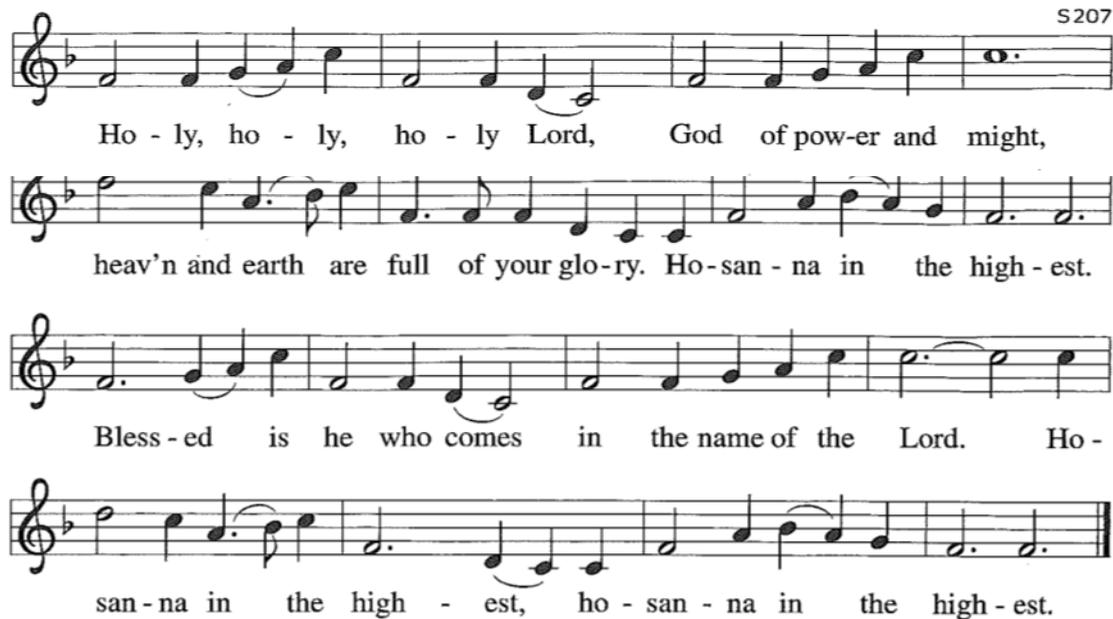
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



S207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san-na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

DISTRIBUTION

Please follow the instructions from the pastor for distribution.

Believing in the real presence of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine of the Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sin, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to the Lord's Table.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 805 "Lead On Oh King Eternal"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

ORGAN POSTLUDE A Mighty Fortress

arr. By Gordon Young

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – August 22, 2021

“...but their heart is far from me...” (Mark 7:6)

Once again, Jesus’ critics are seeking to trip him up in order to discredit him. The Pharisees try to get Jesus into a debate about purity laws. They accuse the followers of Jesus of not properly washing their hands. Their concern is not hygiene or germs but rather with a ritual obedience to the law. These religious leaders are nitpickers about following every jot and tittle of the law. Jesus’ critics are making a very serious charge about his followers being lazy in their hand washing. Instead of dismissing them, Jesus intensifies the demands of the law by saying we should not get hung up on outward obedience but ought to be concerned with the inward heart.

Jesus quotes Isaiah, who criticizes those who honor God by saying all the right things and then fail to honor God with their hearts. Jesus warns them not to get obsessed on the “external” and then immediately ignore the “internal.”

Maybe you go to church because you want to go somewhere God can get to you and work on your heart. You may be in a situation you can’t change and realize you have a better chance of changing yourself than of changing others. You may be unable to change your world, but with God anything is possible, so maybe your heart can change. The problem may not be the situation the world is in but rather the situation our heart is in.

We can listen to Jesus. You may go to church hoping for a few uplifting ideas, or to hear about Christian beliefs and practices. But Jesus turns it all back on us, forcing us to look inside, to examine ourselves, to self-reflect and take an inventory of our heart. You listen to Jesus, who warns us about taking care of the externals of the faith and overlooking the internals. We are here looking toward Jesus, and like a mirror, he turns our gaze back on ourselves.

Jesus does not condemn our outward acts of piety and religious practice like going to church, listening to sermons, serving and helping our neighbor. And yet he says to us today, “That’s not good enough. Look inside yourself. Allow me to work in your life to bring you closer to me and my will for your life. Let me combine the internal with the external, and make your heart right.” Amen.