

Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 21

Sunday, August 23, 2009

Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Setting Three

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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The Rev. Steven Woyen

Pastor

Ruth Patrick

Organist

Tim Whitman

Choir Director

Chris Wood

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INTRODUCTION

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.

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GATHERING

The GATHERING MUSIC: "Praise My Soul, the King of Heaven"

The CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism as the Pastor begins

In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Sisters and brothers,
bear with one another in love,
maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace,
and take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness,
but instead expose them.

Let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy and gracious God,
**we confess that we have not led a life
worthy of the calling to which we have been called.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not acted according to your will.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us.
Forgive us according to the riches of your grace.
Make us holy and blameless before you in love,
so that we might live to the praise of your glory. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for you,
and for his sake God forgives you all your sins.
You who once were far off
have been brought near by the blood of Christ.
As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ,
and by his command and 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.
Amen.

The GATHERING HYMN

“Come, thou Almighty King”

ELW 408

The GREETING

The Pastor greets the assembly with the following words:
The blessing of the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the glorious grace freely bestowed in the Son,
and the power of the promised Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The PRAYER OF THE DAY

ELW p. 142

The assembly is seated

WORD

The 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. ²And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴Now 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 reading concludes

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The PSALMODY

Psalm 34:15–22



¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are up- | on 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 ¹the LORD hears them
and delivers them from ¹all their troubles.
¹⁸**The LORD is near to the ¹brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- ¹its are crushed. *Refrain***
¹⁹Many are the troubles ¹of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from ¹every one.
²⁰**God will keep safe ¹all their bones;
not one of them ¹shall be broken.**
²¹Evil will bring death ¹to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous ¹will be punished.
²²**O LORD, you redeem the life ¹of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will ¹not be punished *Refrain***

The SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, be 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.

The reading concludes

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands

The GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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The HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:56–69

⁵⁶Those 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 CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

The SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Clyde A. McGee

Silence for reflection

The assembly stands to proclaim the Word of God in song.

The HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Jesus, I have promised"

ELW 810

The CREED

With the whole church, 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**

The PRAYERS & PEACE

ELW p. 143

The assembly is seated

MEAL

The OFFERING

The assembly stands

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 144

The SANCTUS

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The THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (I)

You are indeed holy,
almighty and merciful God...*The prayer continues*

...For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The prayer continues and concludes...

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

A - men, a - men, a - men.

The LORD'S PRAYER (Right column)

ELW p. 145

The BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Thanks be to God.

The assembly is seated

The LAMB OF GOD

ELW p. 146

The DISTRIBUTION

*Believing in the Real Presence of Christ, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America practices Eucharistic Hospitality. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. **The Sacrament is distributed by coming up the center aisle and moving to the far end of the rail. Please kneel as you are able** Those who do not wish to receive the Sacrament may approach with their arms crossed to receive a blessing.*

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION

“Eat this bread, drink this cup”

ELW 492

“For the bread which you have broken”

ELW 494

The assembly stands.

The POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen and keep you in his grace.

Amen

Let us pray... Gracious God, in this meal
you have rained down the true bread from heaven,
the body and blood of your beloved Son.

So by his promise bring us to abide in him, and he in us;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

The BLESSING

The SENDING HYMN

“Lead on, O King Eternal”

ELW 805

The SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The SENDING MUSIC: Postlude on “Come Thou Almighty King”

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Acknowledgements

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The **Altar Flowers** are given in honor of Micah Burkett on her 2nd birthday today from Mike, Robyn, and Alex Burkett.

The **Eternal Candle** is given in honor of my granddaughter Micah Jade Burkett's 2nd birthday today – may she always be blessed with love, health and happiness from Nana & Larry.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Assisting Minister

Alyce Snyder

Lector

Carol Rouse

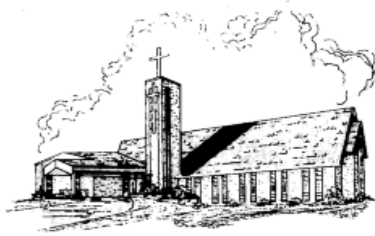
Ushers:

Floyd Everhart, Chuck Garber

Altar Guild:

Cyndi Seward, Shirlie Garber, Shirley Hostetler

PRAYER CONCERNS—Judy Himes, Steve Hite (brother of Carol Himes), and all nursing home residents.



Strasburg-Beach City Shared Ministry

Pr. David Craig will be retiring from First, Beach City at the end of August. As recognition for his 3 years of service and to celebrate our joint partnership there will be a joint liturgy **Sunday, August 30, 9:30am at Beach City**. Pr. Craig will be preaching and Pr. Steven will preside. A celebration luncheon will be held after worship in the Social Hall at **Strasburg**. The use of the two locations will accommodate seating as well as our partnership in ministry and mission.

A Special Message from Mr. Spock!!



Pr. Steven got a new phone as a birthday gift. It's the latest in technology that makes him feel like a crew member of the Starship *Enterprise*. To synchronize his calendar appointments and contacts into his new toy he needed to change his email. Pr. Steven's new email is revrevwoyen@gmail.com Please update your records accordingly. Live long and prosper.

MARTHA CIRCLE - The Martha Circle is still collecting coupons to help men and women serving overseas. You may place your coupons in the box located in the Narthex.

LOOK What's New!

First Lutheran, through a donation, has received and had installed two new handicap accessible toilets. The Ladies restroom is now a Men's/Women's handicap accessible restroom with a lock on the door. The Men's restroom has one of the new toilets installed. We are grateful – thank you so much!

St. John's UCC's Christ Mission's Team is hosting a Fifth Sunday Strasburg Community worship and meal in which all are welcome. Gary Garber's band will be playing Gospel music. This is a new community mission out reach program for our congregation. Our first Fifth Sunday will be August 30th starting at 5:00 PM please come join us in worshipping God and having fellowship.



Senior Choir practice started on Wednesday, August 19th at 7:00PM in the Choir Room. We would love to have some new voices join our established choir, so please join us.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST LUTHERAN (Week of 8/23—8/30)

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| Sunday | <u>Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 21</u>
9:30 AM—Holy Communion (Sanctuary)
10:30 AM—Acolyte Training (Sanctuary) |
| Monday | No Scheduled Activities |
| Tuesday | No Scheduled Activities |
| Wednesday | 7 PM—Strasburg Senior Choir (Choir room) |
| Thursday | No Scheduled Activities |
| Friday | No Scheduled Activities |
| Saturday | No Scheduled activities |
| Sunday | <u>Time after Pentecost—Lectionary 22</u>
9:30 AM— Joint Holy Communion (Beach City)
11:00 AM—Celebration Luncheon (Social Hall) |

A Special thanks to Pr. Clyde McGee for presiding at today's liturgy.

The Rev. Dr. Clyde A. McGee is a native of Lorain, Ohio: a graduate of Thiel College in Greenville, PA; Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus; and McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has been ordained 44 years and retired in July 2004. He served St. Mathew in Mansfield (1965-1972), St. Stephen in Stow (1972-1992) and Good Shepherd in Conneaut (1992-2004). He and his wife, Peggy, live in Springfield Township (Akron) and are members of Advent in Uniontown. They have two children and four granddaughters. Pastor McGee is a Civil War buff, grower of roses, fisherman, historian and with Peggy has traveled extensively nationally and internationally. They are also the gardeners at the Synod Office in Cuyahoga Falls.