



August 18, 2024

**13th Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion**

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. *All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy.

Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,
help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

**We question your ways when they differ from the ways
of the world in which we live.**

**We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.**

We take offense at your teachings and your ways.

Turn us again to you.

Where else can we turn?

**Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world.**

Amen.

Beloved people of God:
 in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
 you are fed and nourished.
 By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
 there is always more than enough.
 Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
 you are shown God's mercy:
 you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom ACS 971

- 1 Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
 she who danced when earth was new.
 Follow closely what she teaches,
 for her words are right and true.
 Wisdom clears the path to justice,
 showing us what love must do.

- 2 Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
 crying in the marketplace.
 Hear the Word made flesh among us,
 full of glory, truth, and grace.
 When the word takes root and ripens,
 peace and righteousness embrace.

- 3 Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
 nurture all who seek rebirth.
 Spirit-guide and close companion,
 bring to light our sacred worth.
 Free us to become your people,

holy friends of God and earth.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY.

Let us pray.

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

A reading from Proverbs.

¹ Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.

² She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.

³ She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,

⁴ "You that are simple, turn in here!"

To those without sense she says,
⁵“Come, eat of my bread
 and drink of the wine I have mixed.
⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
 and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 34:9-14 (Read responsively by verse)

⁹ Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
 for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.
¹⁰ **The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
 but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**
¹¹ Come, children, and listen to me;
 I will teach you reverence for the LORD.
¹² **Who among you takes pleasure in life
 and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**
¹³ Keep your tongue from evil
 and your lips from lying words.
¹⁴ **Turn from evil and do good;
 seek peace and pursue it.**

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:15-20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get

drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 175

We all sing

The image shows a musical score for the Gospel Acclamation 'Al-le-lu-ia'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has the vocal line on a treble clef staff and the piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The second system also has the vocal line on a treble clef staff and the piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.' are written below the vocal lines. The music is in a 3/4 time signature and features a simple, melodic line for the voice and a harmonic accompaniment for the piano. The score ends with a double bar line.

Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood a- I bide in me,* and I a- I bide in them. *Repeat Alleluia.*

GOSPEL John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹ "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469

- 1 By your hand you feed your people,
 food of angels, heaven's bread.
 For these gifts we did not labor,
 by your grace have we been fed:

Refrain

Christ's own body, blessed and broken,
 cup o'er flowing, life outpoured,
 given as a living token
 of your world redeemed, restored.

2 In this meal we taste your sweetness,
 bread for hunger, wine of peace.
 Holy word and holy wisdom
 satisfy our deepest needs. *Refrain*

3 Send us now with faith and courage
 to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
 In our living and our dying,
 we become what we receive: *Refrain*

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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

A Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort, especially Freda, Sandy, Lori, Nancy, Charlie, Susan, Patricia, Rusty, Nancy, Jean, Terry, Lee, Denise, Larry, Patti, Bob, Joan, Ann, Pamela, Bill, Marge, Donna, Marge, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Tracey, Johanna, Carole, John, Todd, Anna, Roy, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence)

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Guide and nurture the people and friends of Grace, Zion and St. Andrew Churches — the future Faith Lutheran Church — as we continue charting and discovering pathways of joining together in proclaiming your Good News and building a servant community of healing, hope and new life. Open our hearts and minds to visions of your church for a new day.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.
Amen.

***SHARE THE PEACE**

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

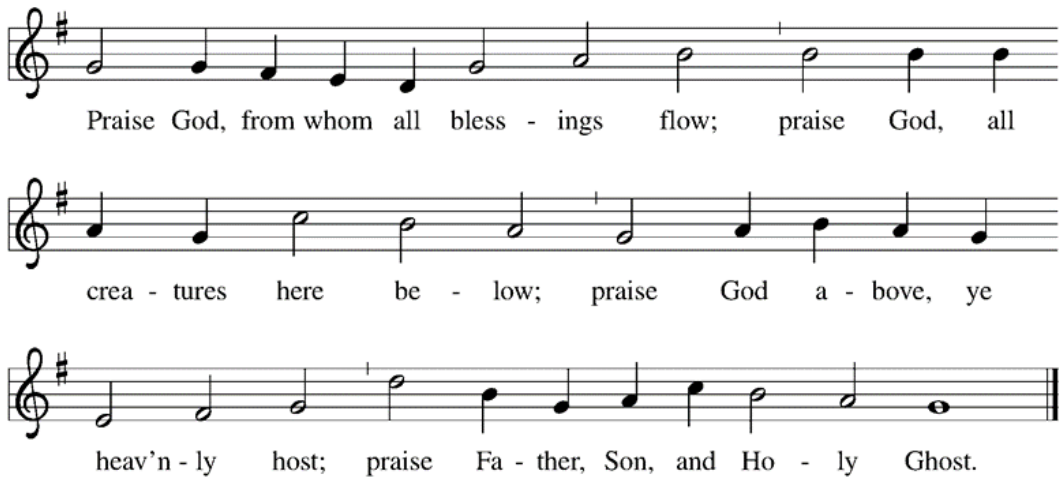
+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

OFFERTORY HYMN Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
ELW 885

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
 Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:
 Jesus, Bread of life,
 you have set this table with your very self,
 and called us to the feast of plenty.
 Gather what has been sown among us,
 and strengthen us in this meal.

Make us to be what we receive here,
your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And** al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift** them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Sabaoth (SAH-bay-outh) is Hebrew for "heavenly hosts."
Hosanna is a Hebrew word of praise meaning "save us now."

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God,
you alone are holy,
you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars;
beneath the sea;

within each cell;
with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water;
by night and day;
across the wilderness;
out of exile;
into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life;
near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner;
among the poor;
with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup
is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us
on the way,
at the table,
and to the end,
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering;
within this meal;
among your people;
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks
to you, holy God,
through Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit,
in your church,
without end.

Amen.

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.**

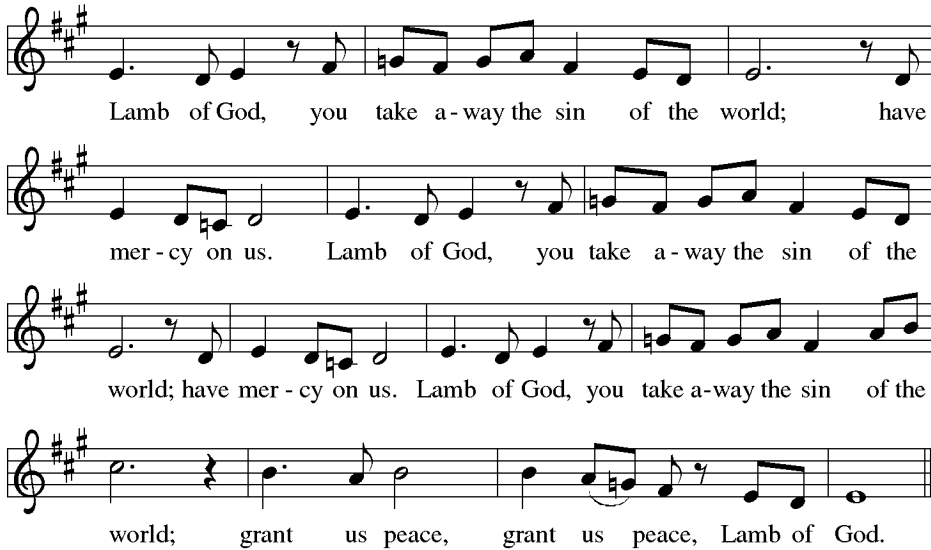
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come! The feast is ready!

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lamb of God* ELW p. 191



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:

Jesus, Bread of life,

we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.

As you have nourished us in this meal,

now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**BLESSING**

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

Amen.

SENDING HYMN To Be Your Presence ELW 546

- 1 To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,
to be your heart of mercy ever near,
alleluia!
- 2 To be your presence is our mission bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,
alleluia!
- 3 To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,
alleluia!
- 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,
alleluia!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. You are the body of Christ!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE**WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, August 18, 2024**

Presiding Minister: Rev. Jim Krauser

Musician: Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Assistant Minister: Arlene Creswell

Lector: Bob Herold

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: John Fitzgerald, Roy Tessman

Altar Guild: Denise Martin

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THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**Wednesday, August 21, 2024**

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

Thursday, August 22, 2024

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Sunday, August 25, 2024; 14th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour/Council meeting following service

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

Church Office Hours: Tuesday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor, phone: 860.857.9362

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator