

Grace Lutheran Church

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Pastor Ken Scheck II
Ms. Cindy Olson, Minister of Music
August 26, 2018

Hungry for an Answer

One Sunday morning in a little village church, a man, sitting in a corner alone at the far end of the last pew, shouted at the preacher. His log-splitter voice cracked the sermon into pieces like a steel blade brings shivers to dark grain in a white oak stump. “I don’t understand! What do you mean?” Though many in the congregation thought it was a gimmick, planned for dramatic effect, the bewildered man in the pew was not a prop—he was hungry for an answer.

Today’s gospel, the fifth and last in a series of episodes that dwell on Jesus as the living bread of life, finds Jesus no longer on a grassy hillside or on the stormy sea. He is teaching in the village synagogue at Capernaum. Reactions are not favorable. Some of the disciples, bewildered and offended, balk at his words with a protest question: “Who can accept it?” (John 6:60). They are hungry for a reasonable answer. But Jesus won’t release the tension. He does not sort those who can from those who cannot “accept it.” Instead, he turns right back to the words he delivered, saying they are spirit and life. With that, he issues a challenge: “Do you also wish to go away?” (John 6:67).

Those two questions hang like cobwebs, practically invisible in darkness yet shimmering in light, holding on, waiting. They stretch and cling from the wide branches of Jesus’ inexhaustible readiness to give his very self to anyone who dares to believe that what he offers is life itself.

At the end, hungry for an answer, Simon Peter speaks for the twelve with one last and lasting question that broadcasts its own answer that had always been there; “Lord, to whom can we go?” (John 6:68).

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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BEFORE WORSHIP

Please fill out our Participation Card and place it in the offering plate every Sunday. This card helps the ministry of both the Congregational Care and Community Outreach Committees. Sometimes there are additional questions on the back of the card, so don’t forget to check both sides of the card.

14th Sunday After Pentecost

August 26, 2018

Pentecost is a season for growing represented by the color green. We celebrate the founding of the church and the fruits of the Spirit.

Holy Silence is observed as we enter to worship.

Pre-Service Music

Welcome/Worship Instructions

Stand as you are able

Gathering Music

*In the Morning When I Rise
(Give Me Jesus)*

WOV 777 (blue book)

Greeting

The pastor and the assembly greet each other.

P The Holy Trinity, † one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love, be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A O Lord, open our lips,

C **and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

P Jesus Christ is the light of the world,

C **the light no darkness can overcome.**

A Give praise to the Holy Trinity our true God,

C **who gives us life, salvation and resurrection.**

P Glory to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

C **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

A Let us Pray... Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal.

C **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**

Sit

First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

In the Near East, covenant means agreement or alliance. It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.

☒ A reading from **Joshua**:

¹Then 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. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“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. 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 word of the Lord.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:15-22

The eyes of the LORD are up - on the righ - teous.

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 | the LORD hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.** ☒

¹⁹Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

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

Second Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.

℣ A reading from **Ephesians**:

¹⁰Be 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 word of the Lord.

☩ **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL VERSE

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, Lord to whom shall we
go? — You have the words of e - ter - nal
life: Al - le - lu - ia! —

Gospel Reading

John 6:59-69

The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

☞ The Holy Gospel, according to **John**.

☞ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those 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 Gospel of the Lord.

☞ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sit

Children's Time

All children [including infants] and youth who desire to come forward for the children's sermon are welcomed and encouraged to do so. Parents/caregivers are welcome to accompany their child during the children's message. There may be a time of dance and celebration that is offered during this time.

Message

Silence for reflection

Song of the Day

*I, The Lord of the Sea and Sky
(Here I Am Lord)*

WOV 752 (blue book)

Kneel or sit as able.

Prayer

☐ Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

☐ God we ask you to bless the church universal in every place, inspiring strength and courage to boldly proclaim the mystery of the gospel. Empower and guide the faith of our bishops and congregations and all the servants of your church, including *Bishops Elizabeth and Craig, Assistants David, Chrysanne and Roseanne; our synod companion churches Zion Lutheran Church of Saginaw, Free Methodist Church of Hastings; Minister of Music Cindy and Pastor Ken.* Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your love is everlasting.**

☐ God our creator we ask you to bless wild animals and family pets, prairies and kitchen gardens, beaches and sandboxes, mountains and hearths. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your love is everlasting.**

☐ God you call us to spread the gospel throughout the nations of the world, announcing the words of eternal life to peoples in every land and country. Protect the lives of those who serve in the military, including *Myrina Clements, Lance and Kayla Champaco, Joshua Wright, Parker Stancil, Tim Krewson, Alexis and Dylan Kelmer, Austin and Aaron Endsley and Tyler Van Houten.* Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your love is everlasting.**

☐ God you command us to remember the poor and the brokenhearted and rescue all those in trouble especially, Jeanette Ulrich, Karl Golnek, Mary Golnek, Wendy Eifler, Newell and Sara, Tim Lowe, Audrey Burdick, John Glasgow, Mary Dunnigan, Larry Hansen and Chad Andress. Hear us, O God.

☑ **Your love is everlasting.**

A God we ask you to protect members of this congregation along all our ways and empower us to serve Christ in sincerity and faithfulness. Hear us, O God.

C **Your love is everlasting.**

A Be attentive, gracious God, to the individual petitions we lift to you in loud voice or in the silence of our hearts.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your love is everlasting.**

A God you redeem the lives of those who have served in the faith and raise them up, according to the promises of Jesus Christ, let us celebrate that you are the bread that nourishes each of us into eternal life. Hear us, O God.

C **Your love is everlasting.**

P Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

Stand as you are able

Sharing the Peace of God

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

(We share the peace of Christ with one another.)

Sit

Offering of Gifts and Music

Everyone at worship is encouraged to fill it out and place a Participation Card in the offering plate every Sunday morning.

Stand as you are able.

Offertory

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465 (red book)

Offering Prayer

A Let us pray . . . Merciful God, you open wide your hand and satisfy the need of every living thing.

C **You have set this feast before us. Open our hands to receive it. Open our hearts to embrace it. Open our lives to live it. We pray this through Christ our Lord. Amen**

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 our thanks and praise.**

P It is our duty and delight, that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, through Jesus Christ who calls us to follow the way of humble service and love, and so, with the church on earth all creation and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer and Acclamation

☞ Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise.

☑ **When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.**

☞ 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink this cup we proclaim Christ Jesus.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come, come again.

Congregation:



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

☐ Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Amen, Come Lord Jesus; Amen, Come Lord Jesus.

Congregation:



A - men, Come Lord Je - sus; A -
men, Come Lord Je - sus.

☐ Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains are scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son. Amen, Come Holy Spirit. Amen, Come Holy Spirit.

Congregation:



A - men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it. A -
men, Come Ho - ly Spir - it.

☐ Through Christ all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your Holy Church, both now and forever.

☑ Amen

Congregation:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the
 u-ni-ty of the Spir-it all glo-ry and hon-or is
 yours, O God, now and for-ev-er,
 A - - - men.

Lord's Prayer

- Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us always to pray:
- Our Father in heaven, holy be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

- Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.
- Thanks be to God!**

Communion at Grace

All who are present are invited to receive Holy Communion. This sacrament is a gift to all who come with open hands and open hearts to the presence of Jesus.

✠ **Bread** is served by the Pastor. **Wine** is served from a *common cup* by the Assisting Minister.

✠ If you need gluten free bread, please let the Pastor know when you come forward.

✠ If you prefer wine from the *pouring chalice* in an **individual cup**, take an empty cup from the tray and have it filled by the Worship Assistant. Return the individual chalice/cup to the basket provided.

✠ **Grape Juice** is provided in the pre-filled cups in the center of the serving tray.

✠ A **Verbal Blessing** may be given by the Pastor, if you do not wish to commune.

✠ If you wish **communion brought to you** in the pew, please notify the usher.

Lamb of God



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

Additional Verses:

You break the chains of hatred and fear:


You are the way of justice and peace:

You are the way of mercy and love:

You are the bread of life for us all:

You pour your Holy Spirit on us:

Final time:



Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup

WOV 706

I Am the Bread of Life

WOV 702

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray . . . Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love.

G **Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore. Amen.**

Blessing of the Backpacks (see insert)

Congregational Announcements

Blessing

P God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, grant you the gifts of faith and hope. Almighty God, Father, **+** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

G **Amen.**

*All children and youth, as well as the young at heart and playful spirits, are invited to come forward to make music and dance during the Sending Hymn. Please choose one instrument to play or one scarf to use for waving and dancing. **In the weeks to come this will end and be replaced during Children's Time.***

Sending Song

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

WOV 723

Dismissal

A Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

G **Thanks be to God.**

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Today, August 26

Worship Service 8:00 am and 10:45 am

Monday, August 27

LACS Rehearsal 6:15 -9:30 pm

Today's Worship Leaders

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:45 am</u>
Assisting Minister	Chris Bush	Vickey Argo
Cantor	Jack Vos	Pastor Ken
Lector	Carl Schoessel	Jeanette Markwart
Communion Server	Jan Schreiner	Mark Anton
Acolyte/Crucifer	Mark Anton	Lance Ogden
Usher	Kay Marsh & Dave Neeb	Gary Golnek & Mark Anton
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Lyle and Joyce Proksch	Volunteers

Table Guild – Chris Bush

Bread Makers – Cindy Olson

Next Sunday's Worship Leaders, September 2, 2018

	<u>8:00 am</u>	<u>10:45 am</u>
Assisting Minister	Randy Teegardin	Mark Anton
Cantor	Jack Vos	Mark Anton
Lector	Carol Vos	Gwen Hansen
Communion Server	Brenda Teegardin	Diane Neeb
Acolyte/Crucifer	Volunteer	Emma Peck
Usher	Tom & Cheryl Drumm	Doug & Diane Neeb
Greeter/Coffee Hr.	Jack & Carol Vos	Eve Wright & Jeanette Markwart

Table Guild – Wales Family

Bread Makers – Volunteers needed

Stewardship Information

Worshippers last week: 89

The local **Food Pantry** located at the Methodist Church on Green Street is currently in need of Old Orchard 100% juice (64 oz--NOT apple juice this time); Pasta or Rice A-Roni (NOT Spanish, beef or chicken based rice PLEASE), Animal Crackers, pretzels, cake mixes (NOT yellow or brownie mix), Meijer pasta--bow ties, shells ONLY, and Old El Paso taco shells.

Blessing of the Backpacks today.

Adult Forum will meet at 9:30 a.m. Today, we will study Matthew 3:1-17, which shows the connection between John and Jesus.

Sunday, September 9 RALLY DAY! At 10 am, Eve Wright invites youth, parents and anyone interested to come learn about the Church School program. Church School during 10:45 worship.

The Property Committee needs volunteers to help with soffit repair around our church building. Date: Friday, Sept. 14th (10 am) and Saturday, Sept. 15th (10am). Please contact Phil Poholski to let him know that you are willing to help.

Calling all teachers! Calling all teachers! As our Church School programs begins, you are invited to a meeting on September 19, 2018 at 6:00p.m. We are asking that all teachers who are part of the Sunday Church School come and fellowship with one another and learn some of the goals that are put in place for each week. Hope to see you there!

Family Promise Brunch on Sunday, September 30, between services at 9:15 am. Mark your calendars to attend!

Handbell Choir is seeking more ringers! You are invited to come give ringing a try without any commitment until after that evening. Come on Thursday, September 13, from 5:30 – 8 pm for dinner, fellowship, and ringing. (Dinner provided)

Carpet Debt Update. In July, we only received \$550.00 dollars. This gift was made by only three giving units. We have a debt still of **\$7,073.38**. If every baptized member gave \$50.00 the debt would be gone. Please prayerfully consider giving a gift beyond your normal giving to Grace.

Fifth Sundays. *Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom.* Colossians 3:16 We try to wisely follow Christ and help our brother and sister grow in word and deed. One of the ways we have done this is to reduce the amount of times we have one service on a Sunday. Some among us worry, "Is this a fifth Sunday? I cannot remember." The decision to change to a worship schedule of two times for services each Sunday is also a hospitality decision to our potential guests. As some visitors have walked in the middle of worship not realizing that it was a fifth Sunday and that they are late or miss worship altogether.