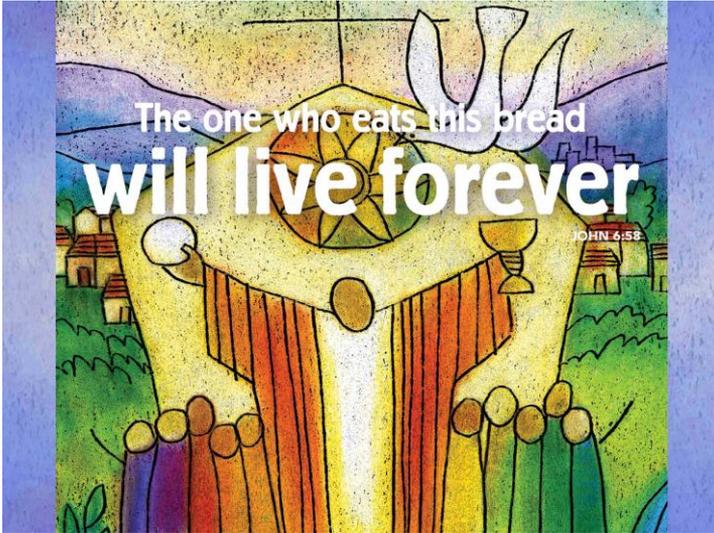


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

945 W. Round Bunch Rd., Bridge City, TX 77611

(409) 735-4573



Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 19, 2018

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Please stand if you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, full of compassion and mercy,
abounding in steadfast love. **Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God
and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Eternal God our creator,
in you we live and move and have our being.
Look upon us, your children,
the work of your hands.
Forgive us all our offenses,
and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires.
By your grace draw us near to you,
our refuge and our strength;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ✝ forgives you all your sins. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN

“Give to our God Immortal Praise”

ELW 848

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

ELW S99

Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



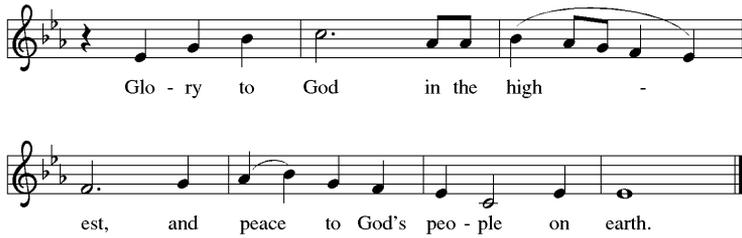
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of



God the Fa - ther. A - men.



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.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST LESSON

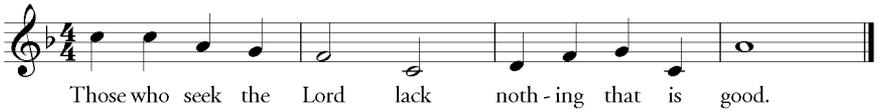
Proverbs 9:1-6

- ¹Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
³She 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.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 34:9-14

All worshipers are invited to sing the refrain; the choir will sing the psalm text.



Fear the Lord, you that are his sains, for those who feat him lack nothing. Th young lions lack and suffer hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good. Come Children and listen to me,; I will teach you the feat of the Lord. R

Who among you loves life and desires long life to enjoy prosperity? Keep your tongue from evil-speaking and your lips from lying words. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. R

SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵Be 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, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving 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.**

Please stand if you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

All worshipers will sing the Alleluia; the Choir will sing the acclamation.



Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I abide in them.

GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

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.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So 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. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. 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.”

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand if you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY “Come, Let Us Eat”

ELW 491

CREED

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s 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

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.

O Lord, you build your church, the body of Christ, and sustain it with living bread. Let wisdom guide your church, and teach all its members the way of righteousness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, bless the work of musicians, composers, writers, and all artists. Move us to even greater praise through their gifts of creativity. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we thank you for the diversity of the nations. Shower your wisdom and mercy upon all leaders and citizens. Give us all the courage to seek peace and pursue it. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, send calm and perseverance to those who are in trouble or who live daily with great stress. Fill them with your Spirit and satisfy them with your presence (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we thank you for this congregation. Give us gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy, and inspire us to give thanks at all

times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O Lord, we bless you for family, friends, and sisters and brothers in Christ who have guided us in wisdom and insight. Lead us into peace with all people until the day of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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. **Amen**

Please be seated.

RECEIVING OUR OFFERINGS

ANTHEM “Break the Bread” - Natalie Sleeth

OFFERTORY PRAYER *Please stand if you are able.*

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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

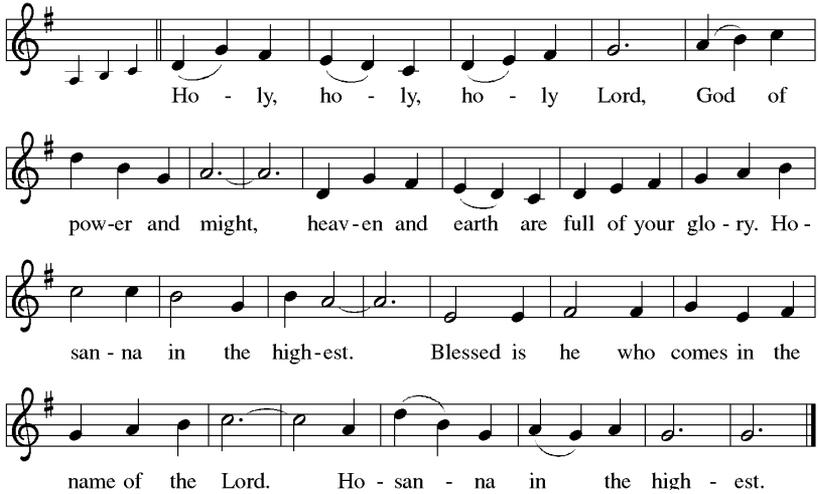
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:

SANCTUS

ELW S108



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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory as we proclaim the mystery of faith. **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE 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

Come, let us eat. The feast is spread.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW S112

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 -



MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Music by Thomas Schroeder

Please stand if you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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. **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.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing”

ELW 543

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

POSTLUDE

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Psalms 34 and Acclamation, St. Martin's Psalter, Thomas Pavlechko, ©St. James Music Press, 2010. licensed permission to photocopy granted

Hungry for Meaning

The account of Viktor Frankl's survival in Nazi death camps, written in his famous memoir, *Man's Search for Meaning*, tells about the relentless days of wretched suffering. But most remarkable are his words about finding meaning in a grim wasteland of loss, the discovery of something that gives life in an existence pulsing with cruelty and death. Few of us face such horrors, but many of us do know what it is to rise into mornings that drift into hollowed out nights, days of empty passages.

During a long stretch of loneliness, the man paced vacantly through once joyful corridors that had become a maze of confused anguish. For anyone and no one to hear, he cried, shouted, "This is no life!" He wanted neither to live nor to die. Nothing—shopping, traveling, eating, drinking, going, coming, playing, working, hoarding, shedding—nothing had meaning.

Today, Jesus speaks of himself as living bread from heaven, his flesh for food and his blood for drink. The Gospel of John offers no details of the Lord's supper, no instructions spoken over bread and wine, no "Do this for the remembrance of me." Instead, here, Jesus' invitation is to share in his way of abundant life, in a word, "abide."

Abide. You are not alone. Abide. Jesus is with you. Abide in communion with the one who hugs lepers, expels demons, breathes with the dead, rescues the far gone, goes to prison, wants the unwanted, loves the shamed, forgives the guilty, serves the servant, blesses the thieves, welcomes aliens, cancels debts, listens to children, gives the blind kaleidoscopes, the deaf symphonies, and the voiceless a song. May this be our prayer today: "When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me" (ELW 629).

Thanks to Thomas Schroeder who serves as our visiting musician. Thomas is the principal chair cellist in the Symphony of Southeast Texas and a local music instructor.