

Sunday, August 22, 2021

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost



St. Mark Lutheran Church

One North Road
Circle Pines, MN 55014

Sunday August 22, 2021
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30am

PRELUDE

MEDITATION

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Summer wanes and the autumn draws close.

C: Lord, help us to be ready for opportunities of service.

L: We have felt the refreshment of time-away.

C: Lord, give us spirits of joy for the times ahead.

L: Come, let us celebrate God's eternal presence and love.

C: Let us open our spirits to receive God's direction for our lives. AMEN.

+OPENING HYMN

"Blessed Be Your Name"

CCLI Song # 3798438 Beth Redman | Matt Redman

+GREETING

L: 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

L: 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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Isolation Desperation"

©Henry Finn

FIRST READING**Ephesians 6:10-17**

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.

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.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL**John 6:56-69**

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?”

L: The holy gospel according to John. **C: 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.”

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

SERMON**Pastor Mollie Dvorak****+HYMN OF DAY****“One Bread, One Body”**

+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 power of 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, 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 INTERCESSION

L: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers: L: God in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

L: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen.**

+PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

The congregation may share a social distance sign of peace with one another.

OFFERING

An offering basket is in the back of the sanctuary for you to drop off your offering. At this time we will not be passing the plates but we continue to be grateful for your generosity.

+OFFERING PRAYER

L: 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

C: Amen.

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered as part of our worship. If you did not grab an individual cup of Communion, please let an usher know and they will get you one. We will take communion together in our seats and Pastor Mollie will instruct us.

All are welcome to receive the bread and the grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.

+POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

L: 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.

C: Amen.

+BENEDICTION

L: Filled to the brim with the goodness of God; the nourishment of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, and the power of the Holy Spirit, go now in peace to serve God in all that you think, do and say. God's peace will always be with you

C: Amen.

+SENDING HYMN

"Amazing Grace"

CCLI Song # 4768151 Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Savior"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Registration

It's that time of year! Registration for Sunday School and Confirmation are now available. Registration is all online now and the links can be found on our website or digital announcements. If you have questions, contact Jenny.

Backpack and School Supply Project

If you are interested in helping purchase school supplies for students, please head to www.adpotabackpack.org to find out more information. You may also donate cash/gift cards - those can be mailed or dropped off at Our Savior's Lutheran Church. If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Collard. Thanks for your support!

Fall Festival

Mark your calendars for September 12th! We'll worship together at 9:30, and then head outside for fun, games, and food! All are welcome to join and we encourage you to invite your neighbors and friends! Come celebrate the start of the program year!

Holiday Bazaar

We are so glad to be able to once again hold the Holiday Bazaar at St Mark on Nov. 13 after the pandemic cancellation last year. The coordinators this year will once again be Susan Koosmann, Nora Hemquist and Cindy Huseby. Consistent with our past schedule, letters were emailed to our loyal vendors last week and we are eagerly awaiting their responses. We are also very grateful for the long list of volunteers willing to help with the Bazaar this year. We will be contacting the volunteers in the weeks to come. If you wanted to help and haven't yet signed up just let us know what you would like to do. More hands can always be used for signs, set up and clean up. If you should have any questions or concerns please address them directly to Susan, Nora or Cindy.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Prayers: Kent Barnard

Lector: Charlie Gardner

Ushers/Greeters: Steve and Cheryl Collard

PRAYER AND CONCERN

Karen Willy and family as they grieve the loss of Karen's sister-in-law, Jeanette.

Yvonne Guptill

Lisa Hutchinson's sister-in-law, Susan Bushey (and family) who's being treated for cancer.

We also pray for: Verna, Sherry, Sue Frieberg, Wendy, Kelly, Sandy, Mashell, Shannon, Larry, Leslie, Dave, Sandie, and Mark.

Please contact the office with any updates to this prayer and concern list—thank you!

St. Mark Giving

August 8th through August 15th giving totaled: \$2,694

Needed to cover Plan for Ministry: \$5,490

Worship Attendance

August 8: 139

August 1: 134

July 25: 123

July 18: 122

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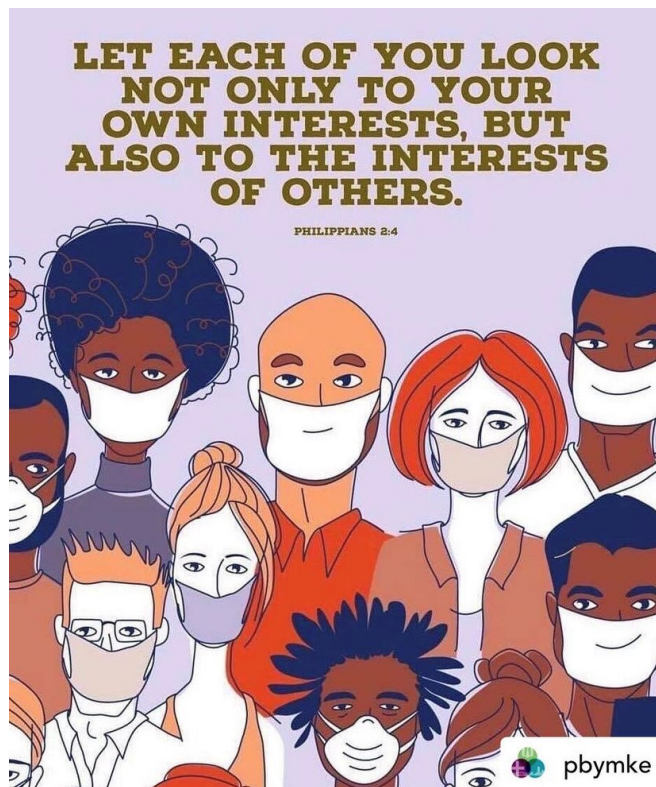
www.stmarkcp.org

***Growing
Together in
God's Love to
Serve Others***



SAINT MARK

Evangelical Lutheran Church



This week at St. Mark

Monday 8/23	Office hours: 10-3pm Women's Bible Study: 9:30am
Tuesday 8/24	Office hours: 10-3pm Staff Meeting: 10:30am
Wednesday 8/25	Office hours: 10-3pm
Thursday 8/26	Stitchin in the Dark: 6:30pm
Saturday 8/28	AA: 10:30am
Sunday 8/29	Worship at 9:30am