

Sunday, August 25, 2024
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme
THE ONLY FOOD WE REALLY NEED

As Jesus concluded his Bread of Life discourse, many said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” and walked away. Read carefully. They did not say the teaching was hard to understand. The meaning was clear enough. Jesus was teaching that the only chance to enjoy eternity in heaven is through a close connection to him. He is the only bread that gives eternal life. That isn’t hard to understand, but it is hard to accept. Eating this bread means reordering our lives so that Jesus is by far our highest priority. It means loving the Blessor infinitely more than his earthly blessings. It means realizing that Jesus is the only thing we really need. If we had nothing but him, we would not lack anything that ultimately matters. Jesus watches the multitudes walking away from him. He turns to the Twelve—he turns to us this week—and he whispers, “You do not want to leave me too, do you?” May the Spirit give us the wisdom to answer, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

606 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

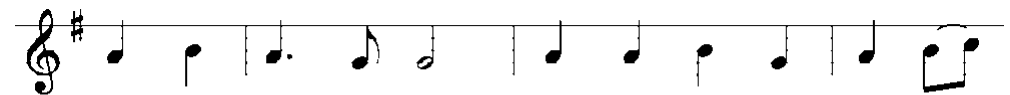
CW 606



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in



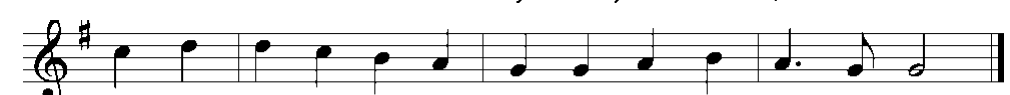
his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
 food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
 sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -



vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
 you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
 lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -



Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: "Je - sus
 sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
 ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re-deemed us by his blood."
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more?"

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, abr., alt.

Tune: adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796-1867; Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827

Text and tune: Public domain

Order of Service – Service of the Word

(From the Old Christian Worship Hymnal, page 38)

- M:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C:** **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

- M:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**
- M:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give us strength to live according to his will.
- C:** **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

- M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are
 they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e -
 ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav -
 ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for -
 ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

1st Lesson

Joshua 24:1-2,14–18 (EHV)

Joshua asks the Israelites to remain faithful to God who had brought them out of Egypt. The LORD was the only God they needed or wanted.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and he summoned the elders of Israel, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and they presented themselves before God.

²Then Joshua told all the people, “This is what the Lord, the God of Israel has said.”

From ancient times your ancestors, including Terah, who was the father of Abraham and the father of Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River, and they served other gods.

¹⁴Joshua said, “Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵But if you see no benefit in serving the Lord, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served 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!”

¹⁶The people responded by saying, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord in order to serve other gods! ¹⁷For the Lord our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. ¹⁸The Lord drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God!”

Psalm 119c

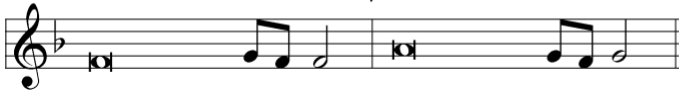
(From the Old Christian Worship Hymnal p. 111)

Refrain



Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.

Psalm tone



Oh, how I love your law!*

I meditate on it all day long.

I have more insight than all my teachers,*
for I meditate on your statutes.

I have more understanding than the elders,*
for I obey your precepts.

Refrain

I have kept my feet from every evil path*
so that I might obey your Word.

I have not departed from your laws,*
for you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste,*
sweeter than honey to my mouth!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,

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

Refrain

Second Lesson

Hebrews 11:24–28 (EHV)

In faith Moses chose to be part of the people of God rather than remaining an Egyptian prince. Being with Christ in the true Promised Land was all Moses needed or wanted.

²⁴By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up. ²⁵He chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoy sin for a little while. ²⁶He considered disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

²⁷By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king's wrath, because he persevered as one who sees him who is invisible.

²⁸By faith he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not strike them down.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. (John 6:68)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Gospel Lesson
John 6:51–69 (EHV)

When many left, the Twelve stayed with Jesus, who had the words of eternal life. The Holy One of God was all they needed or wanted.

⁵¹I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. ⁵⁴The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like your fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever.”

⁵⁹He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰When they heard it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?”

⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble in your faith? ⁶²What if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh does not help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray him. ⁶⁵He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me, unless it is given to him by my Father.”

⁶⁶After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the Twelve, "You do not want to leave too, do you?"

⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

631 Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening

CW 631

1 Speak, O Sav - ior, I am lis - t'ning, as a ser - vant
 2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near you and to lis - ten
 3 Lord, your words are wa - ters liv - ing where I quench my
 4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; let your words in

to his lord. Let me show re - spect and hon - or
 to your voice; let me ev - er love and fear you,
 thirst - y needs. Lord, your words are bread life - giv - ing;
 me take root. May your Spir - it e'er be near me

to your ho - ly, pre - cious Word, that each day, my whole life
 let your Word still be my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
 on your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, your words will be my
 that I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing your



through, I may serve and fol - low you. Let your Word e'er
 Lord, flee in ter - ror at your Word; but to all who
 light thro' death's cold and drear - y night; yes, they are my
 praise, from my heart glad an - thems raise, till my high - est



be my plea - sure and my heart's most pre - cious trea - sure.
 feel sin's bur - den you give peace and words of par - don.
 sword pre - vail - ing and my cup of joy un - fail - ing.
 praise is giv - en in the end - less joy of heav - en.

Text: Anna Sophia von Hessen-Darmstadt, 1638–1683; (sts. 1, 4): tr. Christian Worship, 1993; (sts. 2–3): tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.
 Tune: Johann Schop, c. 1590–1667
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Text & Theme

John 6:60-69 (NIV84)

“From FLESH and DEATH – to – SPIRIT and LIFE”

⁶⁰ On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?”

⁶¹ Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶² What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³ The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ⁶⁴ Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”

⁶⁶ From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.

⁶⁷ “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the
Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion
of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and
thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our
souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil,
the world, and our sinful nature.

**C: We thank you for those who teach and preach your
saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant
them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.

The 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Blessing

(CW p.44)

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.



932 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

CW 932

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of God from his dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.

The sup - per is end - ed; O be now ex - tend - ed
Our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing his chil - dren of each tribe and race.

The seed of his teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
One bread that has fed us, one light that has led us

shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
u - nite us as one in his life that we share.

His grace did in - vite us; his love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for God's king - dom and an - swer his call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Tune: Welsh

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Tune: Public domain

Announcements

Church Cleaners

August 25 – John // September 1 - Simon

Daily Prayer Email

There will be a pause in the Daily Prayers emails from August 15-28. We hope to resume them on August 29.

Pastor Out of Town

Pastor will be out of town from August 15 - 28. If you need to reach him during that time, please call his US number [(512) 887-8982] and leave a message.

Regular Worship Schedule

On September 8th, we plan on beginning our Regular Worship Schedule, with Bible class at 9 am and Worship followed by a coffee and fellowship.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (25) 9:30 am Lay-led Worship**
- Su (1) 9:30 am Worship (with Communion)**
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**
- Tu (2) 6:00 pm Elders
7:00 pm Council
- We (4) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
5:30 pm "Test the Spirits" (BIC)
- Th (5) 10:30 am Longfields Manor Devotion
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (6) 6:30 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (8) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee and fellowship



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