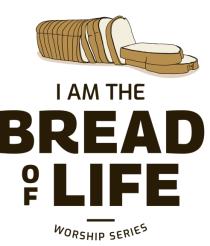


August 22 & 25, 2024 14th Sunday after Pentecost

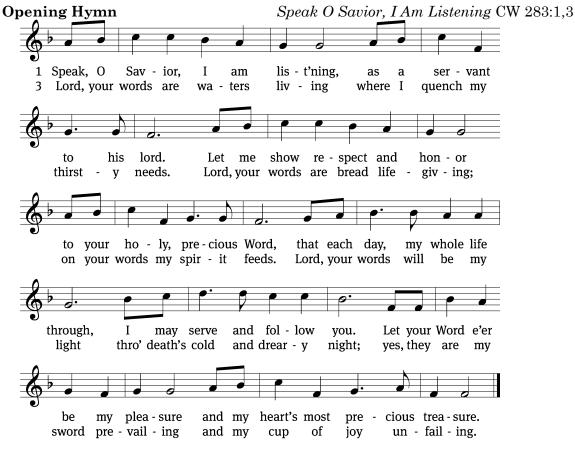


The Only Food We Really Need

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 Blesser 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."

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.



Stand

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION

M: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

C: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

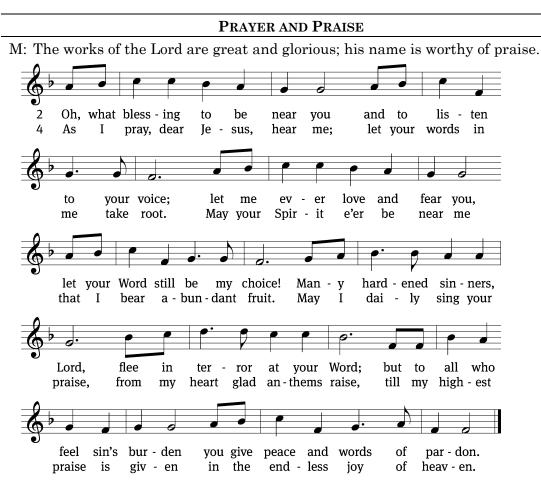
- M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
- C: Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts. We have offended you and sinned against your holy law. We have done those things that we should not have done, and we have not done those things that we should have done. Have mercy on us, Lord! Spare us, forgive us, and restore us, according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

M: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (T) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.



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: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

First Lesson

Joshua 24:1-2,14-18

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 assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

²Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

¹⁴"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. ¹⁵But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, 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 to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! ¹⁷It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. ¹⁸And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God." (NIV)





- Oh, how I <u>love</u> your law!* I meditate on it <u>all</u> day long.
- I have more insight than all my <u>teach</u>ers,* for I meditate on your <u>stat</u>utes.
- I have more understanding than the <u>el</u>ders,* for I obey your <u>pre</u>cepts.

Refrain

I have kept my feet from every <u>evil</u> path* so that I might o<u>bey</u> your Word.

I have not departed <u>from</u> your laws,* for you yourself have <u>taught</u> me.

How sweet are your words <u>to</u> my taste,* sweeter than honey <u>to</u> my mouth!

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> the Son* and to the Holy <u>Spir</u>it, as it was in the be<u>gin</u>ning,* is now, and will be forever. <u>A</u>men.

Refrain

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Second Lesson

Hebrews 11:24-28

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.

 $^{24}\mathrm{By}$ faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. $^{25}\mathrm{He}$ chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather

than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; he persevered because he saw him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and the application of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not touch the firstborn of Israel. (NIV)

Verse of the Day

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

Stand

Gospel

John 6:51-69

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 that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

 52 Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³Jesus 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. ⁵⁴Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them. 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. Your ancestors ate manna and died, but whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." ⁵⁹He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

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

⁶¹Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, "Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! ⁶³The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you—they are full of the Spirit and life. ⁶⁴Yet 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. ⁶⁵He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them."

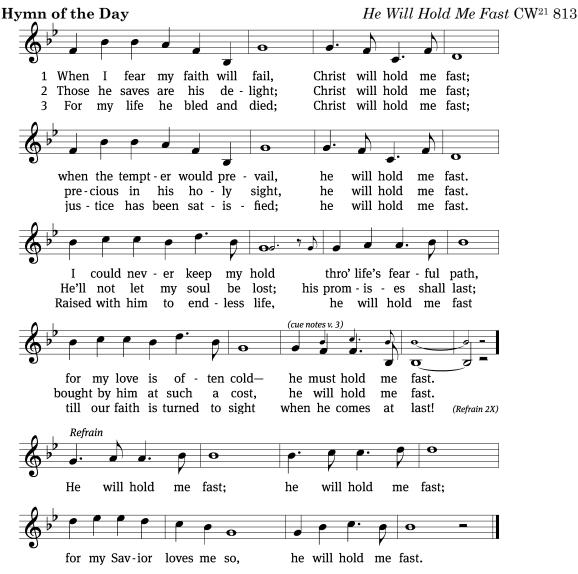
 $^{66}{\rm From}$ this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. $^{67}{\rm ``You}$ do not want to leave too, do you?" Jesus asked the Twelve.

 $^{68}\rm{Simon}$ Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. $^{69}\rm{We}$ have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God. (NIV)

M: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be Seated



Text (sts. 1–2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861–1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984 Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984

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Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

- We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
- We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holv Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please sign the friendship register located in your pew.

Be Seated

Offering

Stand

Installation of a Teacher

(Sunday Only – Thursday service continues with Prayer of the Church on p. 11)

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ said to his church: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Savior loves children and desires to share all his promises with them. Christian schools provide believers with a unique opportunity to nourish the faith of children that they may walk with Christ throughout their lives.

Guests please don't feel a necessity to give an offering today. "Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or

under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7).

To the teacher

Dear friend,

Morrison Zion has called you to serve as *teacher* in the public ministry of the gospel.

As a servant of Christ, you are to carry out all your activities in the light of God's Word and lead our students to know God's holy law and saving gospel. You are to keep them in your prayers and guide and guard their spiritual growth.

You are to set aside time for personal study of the Scriptures so that you may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. You are to strive to be an example of Christian faith and life so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

You are to be prepared to witness to Christ to the parents of your children so that the message of law and gospel may be consistent in their home and school. You are to serve alongside the other workers in this ministry with love, patience, and respect.

In all your tasks and responsibilities, our Lord Jesus equips you with the gospel of the forgiveness of sins, the gift that makes you truly competent as a servant of Christ. St. Paul wrote: "Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God."

Questions

In keeping with the Word and will of the Lord, I ask you before God and his people:

Do you believe that the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired and inerrant Word of God and the only source of truth for faith and ministry? **I do.**

Do you accept the three Ecumenical Creeds—the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian—as faithful testimonies to the truth of the Holy Scriptures, and do you reject all the errors that they condemn?

I do.

Do you solemnly promise that all your service in its various forms will conform to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions? **I do.**

Will you endeavor to live a life that reflects the love God has for you so that all may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven? **I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Are you willing to carry out this work according to the grace that God gives? I am, and I ask God to help me.

To the Congregation

Friends in Christ,

You have heard the promises spoken by the teacher you have called. I encourage you to receive her with joy and remember what the Word of God calls you to do.

Work together with her for the benefit of the Lord's kingdom, so that your shared service may bring spiritual blessings to the Savior's people.

Support her as she teaches the young, so that they may be brought up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Keep her and her work in your prayers, so that his ministry may be blessed and that she might carry out her work with joy.

Provide for her physical needs, for the Savior says, "The worker deserves his wages."

Honor and love her, as St. Peter urges: "All of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

I now ask you in the presence of God:

Are you willing to receive your teacher as a servant of Christ? Will you show her love and honor and support her with your gifts and prayers? If so, answer: We will, and we ask God to help us. We will, and we ask God to help us.

The almighty and merciful God strengthen you to do what you have promised.

To the Students

Dear students, in his grace our Lord Jesus provides teachers and leaders for his people. Scripture encourages us: "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."

In the presence of God I ask you:

Are you willing to receive this servant of Christ as your teacher) and follow the instructions God gives in his Word about your relationship with her? If so, answer: Yes, we are willing. **Yes, we are willing.**

The almighty and merciful God strengthen you to do what you have promised.

Installation/Blessing

Sharon Richter, I install you as teacher at Morrison Zion Lutheran School in the name of the Father and of the (T) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord pour out on you his Holy Spirit for the work you have been called to do that you may faithfully carry out all your duties and responsibilities with the Word of God as your confidence and guide.

Prayer

Let us pray.

Almighty God, source of all wisdom, we thank you for the opportunity we have to send our children to Lutheran schools. May your life-giving Word be the center of all teaching and every activity so that all may come to know and believe your holy law and saving gospel. Equip our new teacher with spiritual wisdom that she may faithfully carry out the duties of her call. Move our students to godly obedience and cause them to grow through their instruction in your Word so that they may serve you throughout their lives and finally inherit eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

- C: We lift them up to the Lord.
- M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
- C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.



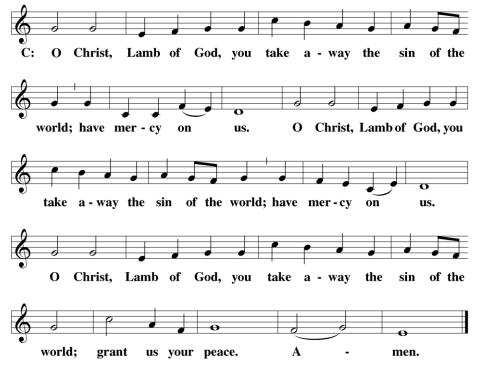
Holy, Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

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

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

- M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C: Amen.



O Christ, Lamb of God

Be Seated

Distribution

Because God speaks of communing together as an expression of unity in faith (1 Corinthians 10:17) and warns there are dangers in taking communion in an improper way (1 Corinthians 11:27-29), we practice close communion. WELS, ELS, and members of other churches around the world who are in fellowship with WELS are welcome to commune with us. If you would like to learn more about becoming a member and communing with us in the future, please speak to pastor or an usher.



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 Ther 5xH GROVE (66 11 66 11 D) Welsh folk tune.





- I am the light that came into the world;
 I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
 I am the Morning Star that never sets;
 lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (Refrain)
- 6 I am the first and last, the Living One;
 I am the Lord who died that you might live;
 I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
 you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (Refrain)

Take and Eat Text (sts. 1–6): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (Ref): Michael Joncas, b. 1951 Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951 Text (sts. 1–6): © 1969 James Quinn, SJ, admin. OCP Publications; (Ref): © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297 Tune: © 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 725297

Stand



- M: Hear the prayers of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son, may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C: Amen.

Benediction

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

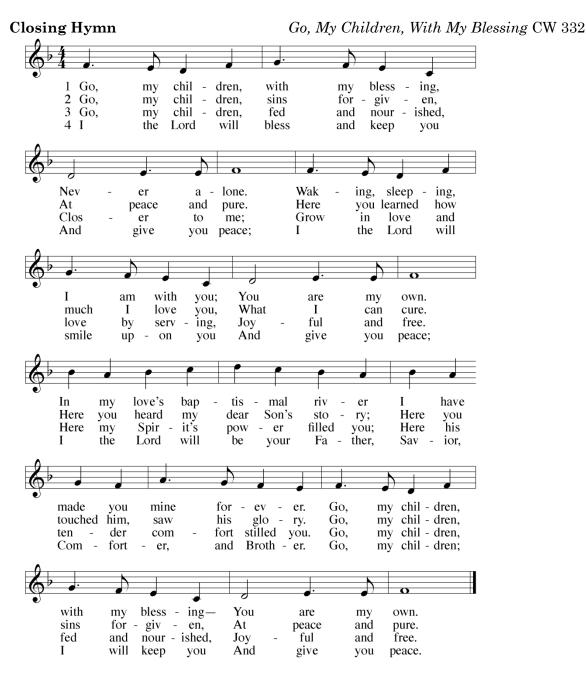
The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Be Seated



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Sharon Richter – Morrison Zion Lutheran School - Grades 5 & 6

I was born and raised in South Haven, Michigan. 1 knew from 4th grade that I wanted to be a teacher! I attended Michigan Lutheran Seminary for my high school, from 1971 - 1975. I went on to Martin Luther College, graduating in 1979. My first Call was to Bethany, in Manitowoc, grades 3 & 4, girls' athletics. After 6 years there, I accepted a Call to Trinity, in Nicollet, Minnesota. I taught grades 2 & 3 and girls' athletics, from 1985 - 1989. I moved out to Jersey in February of 1990, taking a nanny position. I was a nanny for several families over several years. I was a teacher at St. Peters in New Brunswick for first grade. That lasted 3 years, then that school closed. I then received a teaching job at St. Matthew, in Edison, New Jersey. I taught there for 16 years. I moved back to Michigan in 2015, to help care for my parents. My father was called Home on October 30, 2022, and my mother on July 23, 2023. Since my purpose and focus for moving back in the first place was gone, I reached out to Synod about going back into teaching! I am very excited to be at Morrison Zion and teaching again! This begins a new and exciting chapter in my life, guided by my Lord and Savior! I look forward to meeting all of you, in my new church congregation!

Questions/Comments about Zion? Contact:	
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School Faculty: Hillary Geidel, Brenda Kuchenbecker, Michaela Hagenow, Sharon Richter, Jacob Geidel	
Website: www.mzluth.org	Synod : www.wels.net
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