

**12th Sunday after Pentecost—August 15, 2021**



**Grace Lutheran Church**

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Chesapeake, VA 23325  
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[www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org](http://www.GraceLutheranChesapeake.org)

Pastor—The Rev. Leslie D. Weber (she/her/hers)  
Minister of Music—Morgan Hatfield (they/them/theirs)

**Our Mission Statement:**

We are a community of believers in Christ called to be servants to all people.

Page numbers (p.) are in front half of the hymnal.  
Hymn numbers (#) are in back half of the hymnal.  
Everyone is invited to join in **bolded responses**.  
+ Please stand as you are able.

**+ Gathering +**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Prelude**

**+ Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider, **help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

+ Gathering Song

ACS#971

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom



1 Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when  
2 Lis - ten to the voice of Wis-dom, cry - ing in the  
3 Sis - ter Wis - dom, come, as - sist us; nur - ture all who



earth was new. Fol - low close - ly what she teach - es,  
mar - ket - place. Hear the Word made flesh a - mong us,  
seek re - birth. Spir - it - guide and close com - pan - ion,



for her words are right and true. Wis - dom clears the  
full of glo - ry, truth, and grace. When the word takes  
bring to light our sa - cred worth. Free us to be -



path to jus - tice, show - ing us what love must do.  
root and rip - ens, peace and righ - teous - ness em - brace.  
come your peo - ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: MADELEINE, Donna Kasbohm, b. 1933

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+ Greeting

ELW p.165

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.**

**+ Prayer of the Day**

ELW p.45

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.**

**+Word+**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**First Reading**

Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from Proverbs.

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars. <sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. <sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town, <sup>4</sup>“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says, <sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. <sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 34: 9-14**

Let us recite together Psalm 34, verses 9 through 14, as translated in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal:

<sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,  
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

<sup>10</sup>The lions are in want and suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.

<sup>11</sup>Come, children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

<sup>12</sup>Who among you takes pleasure in life  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?

<sup>13</sup>Keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips from lying words.

<sup>14</sup>Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it.

**Second Reading**

Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>15</sup>Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise,  
<sup>16</sup>making the most of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, <sup>20</sup>giving 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**

**+ Gospel Acclamation**

ELW p.171



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 6:51-58

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup>“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.” <sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” <sup>53</sup>So 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. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This 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.**

**Young at Heart Message**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Leslie D. Weber

+ Song of the Day

ELW #518

## We Eat the Bread of Teaching

*Refrain*



We eat the bread of teach-ing, drink wine of wis-dom, are



giv-en here a taste of the king-dom. To-gether



joined, the great-est and the least, we all are



one at Wis-dom's ho-ly feast.



1 Wis-dom calls through-out the cit-y, knows our  
2 Sim-ple ones whose hearts are yearn-ing, come and  
3 En-ter with de-light and sing-ing, for her



hun-ger, and in pit-y gives her lov-ing in-vi-gain  
gain from Wis-dom's learn-ing; bread and wine she is pre-rich-ness  
rich-ness now is bring-ing us this joy-ous cel-e-

*Refrain*



ta-tion to the ban-quet of sal-va-tion.  
par-ing, know her lov-ing in the shar-ing.  
bra-tion; eat and drink in ju-bi-la-tion.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: WISDOM'S FEAST, Jerry Ray Brubaker, b. 1946

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**+ Apostles' Creed**

ELW p.105

With the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the 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 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.**

\* universal

**+ Prayers of Intercession**

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

God of wisdom, enlighten your church. Guide theologians, biblical scholars, authors, and seminary professors as they seek greater knowledge and invite others into deeper understanding. Teach us to ask faithful questions and open our minds to new ideas. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, mend the earth. Cool warming oceans and preserve melting ice caps. Increase our awareness of changing climate patterns and reveal new approaches to the ecological challenges we face. Shield those in the path of hurricanes or tropical storms. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all nations, direct our leaders. Grant them courage to lay aside political grudges and renew their determination to address difficult conflicts. Guide them in the work of reconciliation. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, tend to the wounded. Rescue those tormented by mental illness or mired in addiction. Ease the anxiety of those struggling with dementia. Come quickly to help all who are grieving and all those who suffer, especially for those listed on our prayer list and those we name now aloud or silently (*pause for names*). God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, bring us to new life. Give us the living bread from heaven through which we abide in your love, and on the last day raise us with all the saints to eternal life. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

**+ Peace**

**+Meal+**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

**Offering**

*Thank you for supporting the mission of the church  
as you are able!*

*Electronic donations can be made at  
[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/475611).*

*Checks can be also be sent to church:  
521 Providence Rd, Chesapeake, VA 23325*



**+ Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

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. **Amen.**

**+ 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.**

Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and star 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.

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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 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.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains 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.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

**+ Lord's Prayer**

ELW p.173

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

## Communion

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

*Where possible, commune one another saying "the body of Christ, given for you" and "the blood of Christ, shed for you."*

## Agnus Dei

ELW p. 174

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 -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## + Prayer after Communion

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

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. **Amen.**

**+ Sending +**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

**+ Blessing**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

**Announcements**



Verses on previous page

*Refrain*  
All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,  
and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6

Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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## + Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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