

# *Salem Lutheran Church*

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

*12th Sunday after Pentecost*

*August 11, 2024*

## *Gathering*

*Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.*

### **Prelude**

#### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

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.**

**\*HYMN**

Baptized in Water

#456

**\*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.**

**\*Canticle of Praise**

Glory to God in the Highest

pp. 148-149

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## *WORD*

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

**FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:4-8**

*First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the LORD is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.*

<sup>4</sup>[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."<sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."<sup>6</sup>He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again.<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."<sup>8</sup>He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 34:1-8**

*Taste and see that the LORD is good. (Ps. 34:8)*

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD | at all times;  
the praise of God shall ever be | in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>**I will glory | in the LORD;**  
**let the lowly hear | and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness | of the LORD;  
let us exalt God's | name together.

<sup>4</sup>**I sought the LORD, who | answered me**  
**and delivered me from | all my terrors. R**

<sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD | and be radiant,  
and let not your faces | be ashamed.

<sup>6</sup>**I called in my affliction, and | the LORD heard me**  
**and saved me from | all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who | fear the LORD  
and de- | livers them.

<sup>8</sup>**Taste and see that the | LORD is good;**  
**happy are they who take ref- | uge in God! R**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 4:25-4:2**

*Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.*

<sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. <sup>5:1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation (ELW #172 – Halle, Halle, Hallelujah)**

**\*GOSPEL READING: John 6:35, 41-51**

The holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

<sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <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.”

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

**SERMON**

**Pastor Mark Boorsma**

**\*HYMN**

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW #542

**New Members Received**

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**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Reignite the prayer of the church. By your Spirit, root your church around the globe in prayer and spiritual practices.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We rely on the goodness of your creation in everything we do. We pray for trees that offer shade and for our fellow creatures that depend on the trees for shelter and food. Sustain the work of all who advocate for forests and wilderness areas.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Guide our leaders and nations with a spirit of justice and mercy. Let no evil come out of our mouths, but rather let us extend grace. We pray for our enemies.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Sustain feeding ministries and organizations such as ELCA World Hunger and our local food pantries. We work and pray for a day when hunger is no more.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and for all who are gathered. Be present among anyone who cannot be with us today. Be with all who are hurting, grieving, or ill especially Woody, Larry, Mary, Dean, Kermit, Terry, Pat and all others on our hearts and minds this day.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We remember the saints who have gone before us in faith. Trusting in the promise of the resurrection, we find hope in your communion of saints of all times and all places.

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**Amen.**

**\*Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## *Thanksgiving*

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

**OFFERING**

*We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.*

*Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.*

**\*OFFERTORY**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

ELW #184

**\* OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Merciful God,

We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love.

Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,

Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray . . .

**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.

## *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.**

### **\*HYMN**

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Dead

#452

### **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 150**

**<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!**

**Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!**

**<sup>2</sup>Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!**

**<sup>3</sup>Praise him with trumpet sound;  
praise him with lute and harp!**

**<sup>4</sup>Praise him with tambourine and dance;  
praise him with strings and pipe!**

**<sup>5</sup>Praise him with clanging cymbals;  
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!**

**<sup>6</sup>Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD!**

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### **Assisting in Worship**

Lector: Kathy Paul

Coffee: Larry & Mary Lahs

Ushers: Mark & Marcia Gayken

**Thank you** to Jan Reshetar for the beautiful music this morning.

**The flowers** near the altar are given by Kathy Paul in memory of her husband, Dick Paul.

**This morning**, we welcome back some former members to Salem. Please make them feel welcome!

Jan Werner  
Roxanne Rajewsky

**The boutonnieres** given to the new members are given by the Salem Altar Guild.

**There is a meeting** of the Stewardship Committee after the worship service today.

**Noisy Offering** for the month of August will go to the Salem Roof Fund. Please be generous.

### **This Week at Salem**

Tuesday, August 13: 8:30 a.m. Sew 'N Tell

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Thursday, August 15: 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study

Friday, August 16: 6:30 a.m. Friday Morning Bible Study (at Bancroft Creek)

Sunday, August 18: 9:00 a.m. Coffee hour

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

### **Nature's Funny Guy- Al Batt**

Wednesday, August 14 • 2:00–3:00 p.m. at OAK PARK® Place Albert Lea • 1615 Bridge Avenue, Albert Lea, MN. Enjoy stories from Al Batt, a renowned writer, humorist and nature fanatic! Please RSVP by Friday, August 9. Call (507) 373-5600 or email [albertleasales@oakparkplace.com](mailto:albertleasales@oakparkplace.com)



**Thursday, August 22:** 12:00 p.m. (Noon) SOS (Salem Over Sixty) Potluck in the Lower Auditorium. All are welcome. Coffee, water and lemonade will be furnished, along with hot dogs. Please bring a dish to pass. Sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space.

**Pastor Joel Erickson** will be offering GriefShare for 13 weeks starting Sept. 19 at Grace Lutheran Church (his previous 13-week session finished on July 11). There are a lot of people suffering from unprocessed grief. Grief never fully goes away but there is a world of difference when people can process the emotions and thoughts in a safe place where others listen. The half hour videos for each session are excellent. You can sign up via the GriefShare.org website.