



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost
August 22, 2021 – 9:00am



OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

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| <p>Saturday--5:30pm Worship Service Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson Organist: Ruth Sheldon Reader: Sondra Nelson Liturgical Choir: open Sound: Shannon Bruhns Acolytes: Shannon Bruhns Ushers: Shannon Bruhns Communion Servers: Altar Guild for August: Gloria Kvale, JoAnn Villa</p> | <p>Sunday--9:00am Worship Service Preaching: Pastor Joel Guttormson Organist: Ruth Sheldon Readers: Nancy Guttormson Liturgical Choir: Nancy Guttormson, Larry Rice, Al Skellenger, Larry Rice Sound: Chike Ikefuama Live Stream: Brad Evenson Video: Chike Ikefuama Acolytes: Lyle Thomson Ushers: Lyle and Orloue Thomson Communion Servers: Altar Guild for August: Gloria Kvale, JoAnn Villa</p> |
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The radio broadcast is given in loving memory
of Victor Knudtson from Evelyn and family.

Salem Contact Information:

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INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our children are invited to help lead us in our gathering song

GATHERING SONG

Come as You Are

Vol. 6

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been

Come broken hearted let rescue begin

Come find your mercy oh sinner come kneel

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

So lay down your burdens

So lay down your shame

All who are broken

Lift up your face

Oh wanderer come home

You're not too far

So lay down your hurt

Lay down your heart

Come as you are

There's hope for the hopeless

And all those who've strayed

Come sit at the table come taste the grace

There's rest for the weary rest that endures

Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure

So lay down your burdens
Lay down your shame
All who are broken
Lift up your face

Oh wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt
Lay down your heart
Come as you are

Come as you are
Fall in his arms
Come as you are

There's joy for the mourning
Oh sinner be still
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal

So lay down your burden
Lay down your shame
All who are broken
Lift up your face

Oh wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt
Lay down your heart

Come as you are
Come as you are
Come as you are
Come as you are

A parent or leader of our faith formation team leads us in our call to worship

CALL TO WORSHIP

For the start of another school year and the renewed energy that comes with it.

We pray for the students of this church and this city.

Be present in their classrooms.

Let them be safe, known, and challenged.

Be present in their hallways.

Help them share your loving kindness with one another.

As their knowledge deepens,

So may their faith.

As they learn about the beauty and brokenness of the world you love,

So may they find the places where their gifts can make a world of difference.

O Christ, you were called “teacher” by the ones who knew you best.

Bless the teachers in this church family, and all the teachers who will cross paths with our students.

Give them strength and patience, wisdom and comfort,

And teach us all to be students of your grace.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor shares a lesson and prayer for our children preparing for school

BLESSING OF STUDENTS

Lord, bless these backpacks and the children and youth who carry them as they begin yet another year of school. Give them peace when they feel nervous, focus when they feel distracted, energy when they feel tired. Open their minds to the lessons they will learn both in and outside the classroom. Help them to make friends that build one another up, and be friends to those who need them. Guide them in making good choices as they grow in wisdom and maturity. Be ever-present with them in the classroom, on the school bus, on the playground, and at home, and may they feel your loving care in all they do.

Amen.

Teachers and school staff are invited to come forward for a blessing

BLESSING OF TEACHERS

Lord, bless those in the ministry of teaching future generations. As they embark on a new school year, grant them energy, passion, discipline, and endurance for their daily tasks. Infuse their classrooms with an atmosphere of care and mutual respect, that all interactions there will be bathed in patience and understanding. Help their lessons to grow pupils in both knowledge and character, and help us all to support the work these teachers do building up our community and our future.

Amen.

Students, teachers, staff, and members who helped collect supplies are invited to come forward.

BLESSING FOR DONATED BACKPACKS AND SUPPLIES

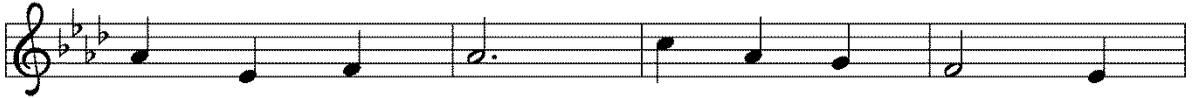
Lord, bless these backpacks and school supplies and the children who will use them. Let these physical gifts be symbols of the love and support we give to the children of our community throughout the year. Help us to look upon every child in our community as one of our own, helping them to grow in character and knowledge.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Earth and all Stars

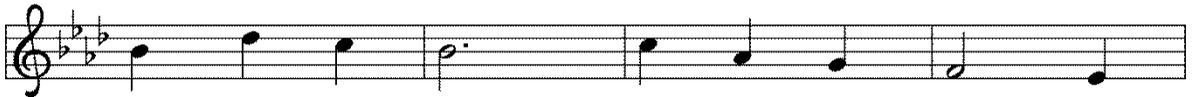
ELW #731



1 Earth and all stars! Loud rush - ing plan - ets!
 2 Trum - pet and pipes! Loud clash - ing cym - bals!
 3 En - gines and steel! Loud pound - ing ham - mers!
 4 Class-rooms and labs! Loud boil - ing test tubes!
 5 Knowl-edge and truth! Loud sound - ing wis - dom!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



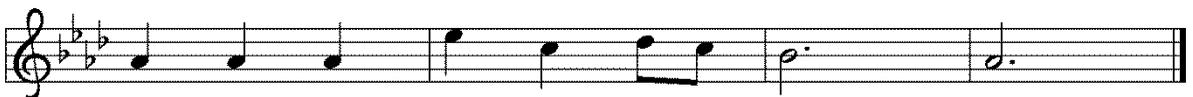
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blow - ing snow - storm!
 Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud hum - ming cel - los!
 Lime - stone and beams! Loud build - ing work - ers!
 Ath - lete and band! Loud cheer - ing peo - ple!
 Daugh - ter and son! Loud pray - ing mem - bers!



Sing to the Lord a new song!
 Sing to the Lord a new song!



Refrain
 God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.

¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region 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.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 34:15-22

The psalm will be spoken responsively beginning with the lector

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 6:10-20

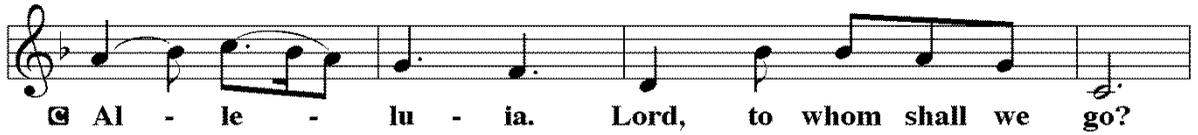
¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this 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.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?* WOV p.31
We stand for the hearing of the gospel.



GOSPEL

John 6:56-69

The Holy Gospel according to John
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.⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Blessed Assurance

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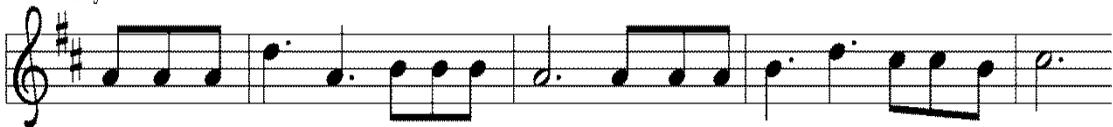


- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,

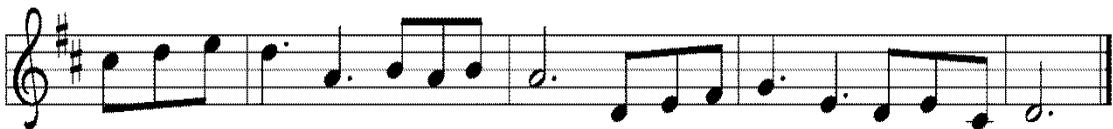


Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

All may be seated as the pastor invites us into our time of prayer.

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

A brief silence.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Pastor concludes the prayers

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Bountiful God, in praise and thanksgiving for your many blessings, receive our tithes and offerings, that they may be for the world signs of the bread of heaven and the fullness of your grace.

Amen.

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

BLESSING

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

SENDING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

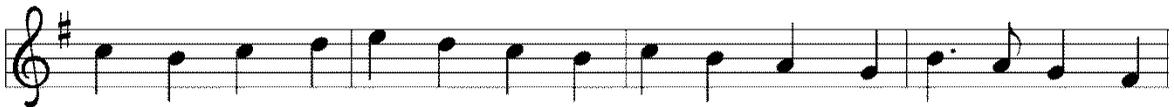
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1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE



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Call to Worship: *Adapted from Rev. Anna George Traynham pastor at Shallowford Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia.* <https://andalsowithyou.blog/tag/litany/>

Backpack, teacher and school supply blessing from <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1634/backpack-blessings>

