

## Introduction to the day

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

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

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## OPENING SONG/PRELUDE

*All the Earth Shall Worship*

©Carl Tuttle

*(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)*

## WELCOME

## 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.

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 *Breathe*

©Marie Barnett



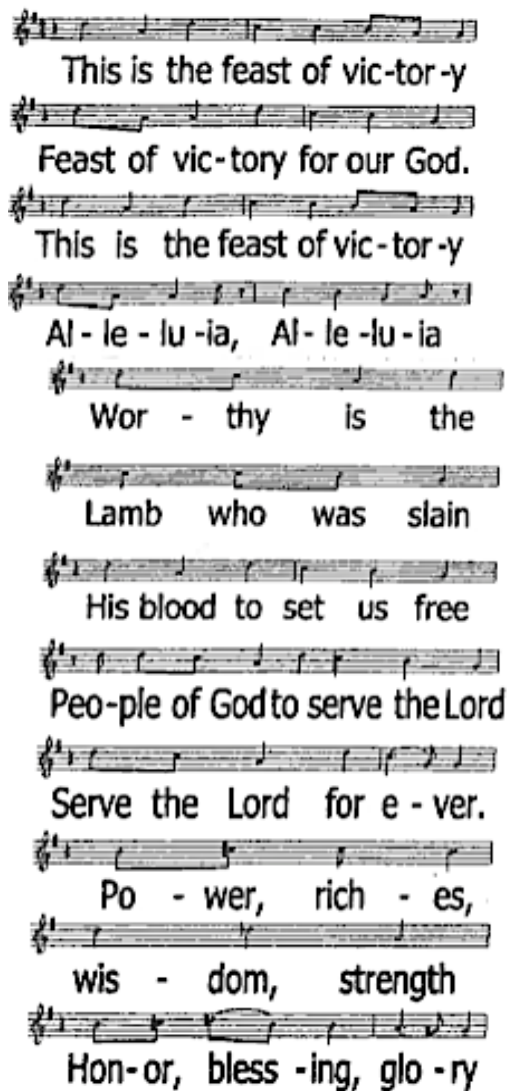
## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

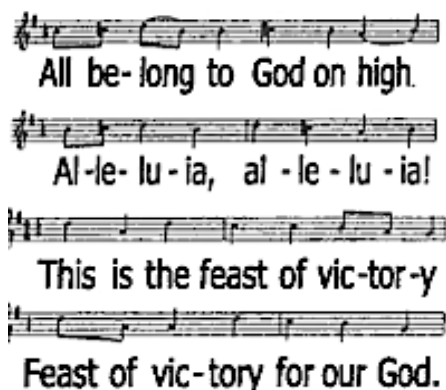
**And also with you.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE *This Is the Feast*

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy



This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
Wor-thy is the  
Lamb who was slain  
His blood to set us free  
Peo-ple of God to serve the Lord  
Serve the Lord for e-ver.  
Po-wer, rich-es,  
wis-dom, strength  
Hon-or, bless-ing, glo-ry



All be-long to God on high.  
Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!  
This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Feast of vic-tory for our God.



This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia  
Sing with all God's  
ho-ly peo-ple  
Join the hy-mn of  
all cre-a-tion  
Bless-ing, hon-or,  
glo-ry, mi-ght  
Be to God and the  
Lamb for-ev-er  
A-men! A-men!  
This is the feast of vic-tor-y  
Feast of vic-tory for our God.  
For the Lamb who once was slain  
Has be-gun his reign forev-er.  
A - - - - - men!



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

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

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**FIRST READING:** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 (Barb Morris)

*In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.*

*A reading from Joshua.*

<sup>1</sup>Then 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. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>"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. <sup>15</sup>Now 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."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for 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; <sup>18</sup>and 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.**

**PSALM:** Psalm 34:15-22 (Barb Morris)

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,  
and God's ears are open to their cry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>22</sup>**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

(Barb Morris)

*Like a general giving a rousing speech to troops before battle, this letter closes by calling on Christians to be equipped for spiritual warfare against evil. The full armor of God includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, the gift of salvation, and the word of God inspired by the Spirit.*

*A reading from Ephesians.*

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For 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. <sup>13</sup>Therefore 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. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray 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. <sup>19</sup>Pray 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, <sup>20</sup>for 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.**

## KIDS' MESSAGE

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

## GOSPEL: John 6:56-69

*The "hard saying" that offends Jesus' disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: "To whom shall we go?"*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] <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." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"

<sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup>Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup>It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

<sup>64</sup>But 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. <sup>65</sup>And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to

whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>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

(Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)



- 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.

## CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world and confess our shared faith using 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Barb Morris)

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

*The congregation may offer additional prayer concerns either aloud or in the chat box*

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 always.  
**And also with you.**

## MEAL

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

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## OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.  
Thank you so much for your continued support in these unusual times.*

If you are worshiping with us onsite, and wish to give an offering, please use the basket on the back table. You may also give online using the QR code in the announcements section of this bulletin.

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

**Amen.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

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**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the words of the language of your heart.

**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.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

If you are joining us online,  
you welcome to take communion in your home or to be in a time of prayer.  
If you are worshipping with us onsite, please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.*

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## **BLESSING**

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

# SENDING SONG

## Good, Good Father

©Anthony Brown & Pat Barrett



1. I've heard a thou - sand sto - ries of what \_ they think You're like, \_\_\_\_\_ but



I've heard \_ the ten - der whis - per of love \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ the dead of night. \_\_\_\_\_ You tell



\_\_\_\_\_ me that You're pleased, and that I'm \_\_\_\_\_ nev - er a - lone. \_\_\_\_\_

### CHORUS

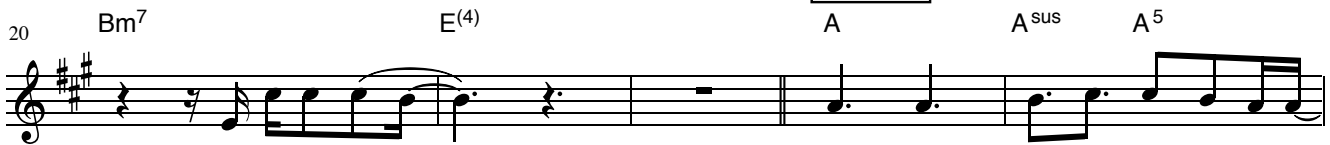


You're a good, \_\_\_\_\_ good Fa - ther; it's who You are, it's who You are,



it's who You are. \_\_\_\_\_ And I'm loved \_ by You; \_\_\_\_\_ it's who I am, it's who I am,

### VERSE 2



it's who I am. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I've seen man - y search - ing for an -



- swers \_\_\_\_\_ far and wide, \_ but I \_\_\_\_\_ know \_ we're all search - ing for an -



- swers \_ on - ly You pro - vide. \_ Be - cause You know \_\_\_\_\_ just what we need \_ be - fore

CHORUS

33 Bm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>(4)</sup> D<sup>2</sup> A

we say a word. You're a good, good Fa-ther; it's who You are, it's who You are,

37 Bm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>(4)</sup> D<sup>2</sup> A

it's who You are. And I'm loved by You; it's who I am, it's who I am,

41 1, 3. Bm<sup>7</sup> E<sup>(4)</sup> 2, 4. Bm<sup>7</sup>

it's who I am. You're a good, good Fa- it's who I am.

BRIDGE

44 E<sup>(4)</sup> D<sup>2</sup> F#m<sup>7</sup>

Fine

You are per-fect in all of Your ways. You are

48 Bm<sup>7</sup> A D<sup>2</sup> F#m<sup>7</sup>

per-fect in all of Your ways. You are per-fect in all of Your ways to

INSTRUMENTAL

52 1. E<sup>(4)</sup> 2. E<sup>(4)</sup> A A<sup>sus</sup> A<sup>5</sup>

us. You are us.

VERSE 3

58 A A<sup>sus</sup> A<sup>5</sup> A A<sup>sus</sup> A<sup>5</sup> A A<sup>sus</sup> A<sup>5</sup>

3. Love so un-de-ni-a-ble, I can hard-ly speak.

Peace so un - ex - plain - a - ble, I can hard - ly think as You call me \_

69 A/C# Bm7 A/C#

deep - er still, as You call me deep - er still, as You call \_

72 D<sup>2</sup>(no3) A/C# Bm7

me deep - er still in - to love, love,

75 E<sup>(4)</sup> D.S. al Fine

love. You're a good, good Fa -

**DISMISSAL**

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

**CELEBRATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**