

## TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 15

The Words and Food of Eternal Life  
August 15, 2021



### AS WE GATHER

Today we consider why we follow Jesus. In the Gospel, we see many people stop following Jesus because His words offend them. When Jesus asks the disciples if they want to stop following Him as well, Peter answers, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Not only does Jesus have the words of eternal life, but He also gives us the food of eternal life—His body and blood. As we gather for worship, we gather around God’s Word and God’s Meal—the Lord’s Supper.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

### HYMN

“With the Lord Begin Your Task” *LSB* 869

- 1 **With the Lord begin your task;  
Jesus will direct it.  
For His aid and counsel ask;  
Jesus will perfect it.  
Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise,  
And when day is ended,  
In His name then close your eyes;  
Be to Him commended.**
- 2 **Let each day begin with prayer,  
Praise, and adoration.  
On the Lord cast ev’ry care;  
He is your salvation.  
Morning, evening, and at night  
Jesus will be near you,  
Save you from the tempter’s might,  
With His presence cheer you.**
- 3 **With your Savior at your side,  
Foes need not alarm you;  
In His promises confide,  
And no ill can harm you.  
All your trust and hope repose  
In the mighty Master,  
Who in wisdom truly knows  
How to stem disaster.**
- 4 **If your task be thus begun  
With the Savior’s blessing,  
Safely then your course will run,  
Toward the promise pressing.  
Good will follow ev’rywhere  
While you here must wander;  
You at last the joy will share  
In the mansions yonder.**

5 **Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task  
Be to You commended;  
May Your will be done, I ask,  
Until life is ended.  
Jesus, in Your name begun  
Be the day's endeavor;  
Grant that it may well be done  
To Your praise forever.**

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## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.  
**People:** **Insight is knowing the holy one and seeking justice.**  
**Pastor:** The way of the Lord leads to eternal life.  
**People:** **The way of the world leads only to death.**  
**Pastor:** Through His death and resurrection, Jesus opens the way of eternal life.  
**People:** **Jesus has given us the words of eternal life.**  
**Pastor:** Jesus gives us the food of eternal life, His body and blood.  
**People:** **Come, let us listen to His words, walk His way, and delight in His food.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Though Jesus has come down from the heavens as the bread of life for us, we sometimes listen to other people's words. We sometimes choose to follow those who do not follow Jesus. We sometimes delight in earthly pleasures rather than the daily bread God has given us. Yet, our heavenly Father calls us back to Him, for His way is a way of forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

**Pastor:** Heavenly Father,  
**People:** **we have lived according to our own wisdom and desires. We have ignored Your words and wisdom. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us on the way of resurrection and eternal life, on account of Jesus. Amen.**  
**Pastor:** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Jesus, the living bread from heaven, has given His body and shed His blood so that you would be forgiven and have eternal life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**People:** **Amen. We are forgiven. We have eternal life with Christ. Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

## HYMN

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" St. 1 *LSB* 802

1 **Immortal, invisible,  
God only wise,  
In light inaccessible  
hid from our eyes,  
Most blessed, most glorious,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,  
Thy great name we praise.**

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## SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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 steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Proverbs 9:1–10*

(God's way of wisdom)

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight." Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## GRADUAL

*Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Pastor: Fear the LORD, you His saints,

People: **for those who fear Him lack nothing!**

Pastor: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

People: **but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

## EPISTLE

*Ephesians 5:6–21*

(Walking in the way of wisdom and love)

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not associate with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## VERSE

*John 6:68*

People: **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

## HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:51–69

(Jesus is the living bread from heaven.)

[Jesus said:] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.” After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

“O God, My Faithful God” LSB 696

- 1 O God, my faithful God,  
True fountain ever flowing,  
Without whom nothing is,  
All perfect gifts bestowing:  
Give me a healthy frame,  
And may I have within  
A conscience free from blame,  
A soul unstained by sin.
- 2 Grant me the strength to do  
With ready heart and willing  
Whatever You command,  
My calling here fulfilling;  
That I do what I should  
While trusting You to bless  
The outcome for my good,  
For You must give success.
- 3 Keep me from saying words  
That later need recalling;  
Guard me lest idle speech  
May from my lips be falling;  
But when within my place  
I must and ought to speak,  
Then to my words give grace  
Lest I offend the weak.

- 4 Lord, let me win my foes  
With kindly words and actions,  
And let me find good friends  
For counsel and correction.  
Help me, as You have taught,  
To love both great and small  
And by Your Spirit's might  
To live in peace with all.
- 5 Let me depart this life  
Confiding in my Savior;  
By grace receive my soul  
That it may live forever;  
And let my body have  
A quiet resting place  
Within a Christian grave;  
And let it sleep in peace.
- 6 And on that final day  
When all the dead are waking,  
Stretch out Your mighty hand,  
My deathly slumber breaking.  
Then let me hear Your voice,  
Redeem this earthly frame,  
And bid me to rejoice  
With those who love Your name.

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## SERMON

“Light in the Shadow of Temples”  
Ephesians 5:6-21

## HYMN

“O Worship the King” *LSB* 804

- 1 O worship the King,  
all-glorious above.  
O gratefully sing  
His pow'r and His love;  
Our shield and defender,  
the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor  
and girded with praise.
- 2 O tell of His might,  
O sing of His grace,  
Whose robe is the light,  
whose canopy space;  
His chariots of wrath  
the deep thunderclouds form,  
And dark is His path  
on the wings of the storm.
- 3 This earth, with its store  
of wonders untold,  
Almighty, Thy pow'r  
hath founded of old,  
Established it fast  
by a changeless decree,  
And round it hath cast,  
like a mantle, the sea.

4 Thy bountiful care  
what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air,  
it shines in the light,  
It streams from the hills,  
it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills  
in the dew and the rain.

5 Frail children of dust  
and feeble as frail,  
In Thee do we trust,  
nor find Thee to fail.  
Thy mercies, how tender,  
how firm to the end,  
Our maker, defender,  
redeemer, and friend!

6 O measureless Might,  
ineffable Love,  
While angels delight  
to hymn Thee above,  
Thy humbler creation,  
though feeble their lays,  
With true adoration  
shall sing to Thy praise.

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#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,  
People: hear our prayer.

#### **OFFERING**

#### **OFFERTORY**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,  
And fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,  
That we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;  
Unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with Your presence, and give us  
A foretaste of the feast to come.

“Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful” *LSB* 955

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## LORD'S PRAYER

*Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:** 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.

## BENEDICTION

*Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.  
**People:** Amen.

## HYMN

*“Thy Strong Word” LSB 578*

- 1 Thy strong word did cleave the darkness;  
At Thy speaking it was done.  
For created light we thank Thee,  
While Thine ordered seasons run.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness,  
Dark as night and deep as death,  
Broke the light of Thy salvation,  
Breathed Thine own life-breathing breath.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!
- 3 Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous;  
Bright with Thine own holiness,  
Glorious now, we press toward glory,  
And our lives our hopes confess.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!

**4 From the cross Thy wisdom shining  
Breaketh forth in conqu'ring might;  
From the cross forever beameth  
All Thy bright redeeming light.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise to Thee who light dost send!  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia without end!**

**5 Give us lips to sing Thy glory,  
Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim,  
Throats that shout the hope that fills us,  
Mouths to speak Thy holy name.  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
May the light which Thou dost send  
Fill our songs with alleluias,  
Alleluias without end!**

**△ 6 God the Father, light-creator,  
To Thee laud and honor be.  
To Thee, Light of Light begotten,  
Praise be sung eternally.  
Holy Spirit, light-revealer,  
Glory, glory be to Thee.  
Mortals, angels, now and ever  
Praise the holy Trinity!**

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