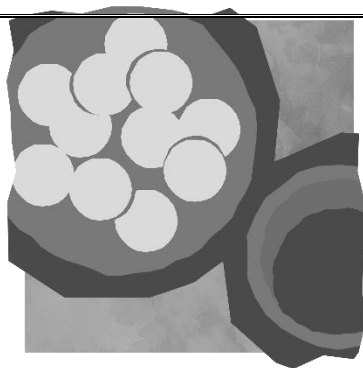


# TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 15

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. Today we consider Jesus’ claim that He is the bread of life and whoever feeds on His flesh and drinks His blood has eternal life. While this may sound mysterious to us, it was downright offensive to those who first heard these words. The way and wisdom of Jesus are often countercultural and counterintuitive, but He offers us eternal life as He gives His body and pours out His blood for us and our salvation.

## **✕ PREPARATION ✕**

### **PRAYERS OF PREPARATION:**

Holy Wisdom, you granted Solomon's request understanding mind and the knowledge to discern good from evil. We come to you today because we desire to know you more and to do your will. Your Word is holy and powerful -- please open our hearts to your message and bend our willful spirits to your ways. Fill us with such understanding and knowledge that we may act as instruments of your loving desire for creation, working with you to transform our conceit into concern for others, our fear into love, our violence into peace, and our brokenness into wholeness. Make us a shining example of Your amazing grace, redeeming love, and life-changing power. May others be drawn to You through us. Thank you, Jesus, that you will never leave us alone in our sin and shame. You offer perfect peace through redemption. You are faithful and just and will forgive us if we come to you in repentance. Thank you for our fellow Christians who we can walk beside in faithfulness to you. We ask it through Christ Jesus your Son. Amen.

**HOLY COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED:**

As a Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) church, we believe and confess that through the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine. As we commune with faith and repentance, we receive the forgiveness of sins and power to amend our sinful lives. If you confess the same belief, we invite you to our fellowship of the Lord's Supper.

**WELCOME:**

**WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE...** Listen! Wisdom is calling! She calls out to each of us, beckoning us: to experience peace in Christ, to discover the truth of life, to know true love as it is poured into our hearts. Welcome! As we gather this day, let us answer her call as we celebrate faith in the One who leads us into life. May the Holy Spirit richly bless and be with us all. It is the mission of our church to share the love of Christ. Romans 5:5 says "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." May the Lord be with us as we hear the Gospel or the strengthening of our faith and making disciples of all nations!

**HYMN**                                      **Minister Terry Dale**

**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 OF PRAISE**

## **“Praise Him! Jesus, Blessed Savior” Sts. 1-2**

1 Praise him, praise him, praise him, praise him! Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised. From the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, he's worthy, Jesus is worthy, he's worthy to be praised.

2 Glory! Glory! In all things give him glory. Jesus, blessed Savior, he's worthy to be praised. For God is our rock, hope of salvation; a strong deliverer, in him I will always trust.

## **SALUTATION**

Pastor:                   The Lord be with you.

**People:           And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor:           Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the living bread come down from heaven to give us life eternal. Strengthen us as we follow Your wisdom, Your way, and Your Word, that we remain steadfast in the true faith until Your glorious return; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:           Amen.**

## **OLD TESTAMENT READING   *Proverbs 9:1–10*   (God's way of wisdom)**

Leader:           This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:           Thanks be to God.**

**Selection**

**Minister Terry Dale**

**GRADUAL** *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

**EPISTLE** *Ephesians 5:6–21* (Walking in the way of wisdom and love)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE** *John 6:68*

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

**HOLY GOSPEL** *John 6:51–69* (Jesus is the living bread from heaven.)

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

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

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**Selection** **Minister Terry Dale**

**SERMON**

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**(We Bring Our Tithes and Offering To The Lord)**

**CREED**      *Nicene Creed*

**People:**      **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**Leader:**      Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, You descend from the heavens to feed Your people with the food of eternal life. As we follow You, help us to feed others both with earthly food and with heavenly food. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People:**      **let me with holy food be fed.**

Leader: Lord, we bring before You all those who have stopped following You. We pray that You would soften their hearts and give us wisdom to share Your

words of eternal life so that they might follow You again. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Leader: Lord, Your ways are not our ways. Your thoughts are not our thoughts. Help us not to seek our own way but to seek Your way and Your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Leader: Lord, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially . . .*]. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Leader: Lord, strengthen all those who struggle with addictions. Break their bondage and lead them to get the help they need. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Leader: Lord, aid all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they bring Your Word to Your people so that more and more people follow Your way. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Leader: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially . . .*]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, we commend all these things to Your infinite wisdom and guiding, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT ✕**

**PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## **PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who is the living bread that came down from heaven to bring us eternal life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

**SANCTUS** “Holy, Holy, Holy (TLH 246 Sts. 1)

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;  
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*



**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST**    *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor:        As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:**        **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**    *Matthew 6:9–13*

**PAX DOMINI**

Pastor:        The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:**        **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION**

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor:        Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You sent Your Son to be the living bread from heaven. As we have feasted upon His body and blood for our forgiveness, strengthen us to continually follow Him and hear His Word; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**        **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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.**

**Selection**

**Minister Terry Dale**