

**13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**August 22, 2021**

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
*A Place for Everyone . . .*

51 WEST MAIN STREET  
NEWVILLE, PA 17241-1010  
(717) 776-3907

Email: [zionnewvillepa@gmail.com](mailto:zionnewvillepa@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.zionnewville.org](http://www.zionnewville.org)  
Like us on Facebook: @ZionNewville

The Rev. Linda Hostetter, Interim Pastor



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

*Peace to all who enter God's house for worship today.  
We pray that all will find strength, security, and fellowship with God and with one another.*

Congregation, please **stand/sit** as you are able.

**P** Presiding Minister   **C** Congregation   **A** Assisting Minister

**Welcome to our Visitors**

*If you are a visitor, please see one of our greeters and fill out our gold visitor's slip.  
We hope that you will come back and worship with us again!*

**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.

**THE GATHERING**

**PRELUDE**

*Please stand.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C** Amen.

**P** Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** God, our provider,

**C** 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.

**P** 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.

**C** Amen.

## GATHERING HYMN:

*How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*

(green hymnal #345 Verses 1-4)

## GREETING

**P** From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

**C** And also with you.

## 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.

*Please be seated*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

*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.*

<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.”

📖 This is the word of the Lord.      🗣️ Thanks be to God.

**PSALM 34:15-22**

📖/🗣️ *by whole verse*

<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

*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.*

<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.

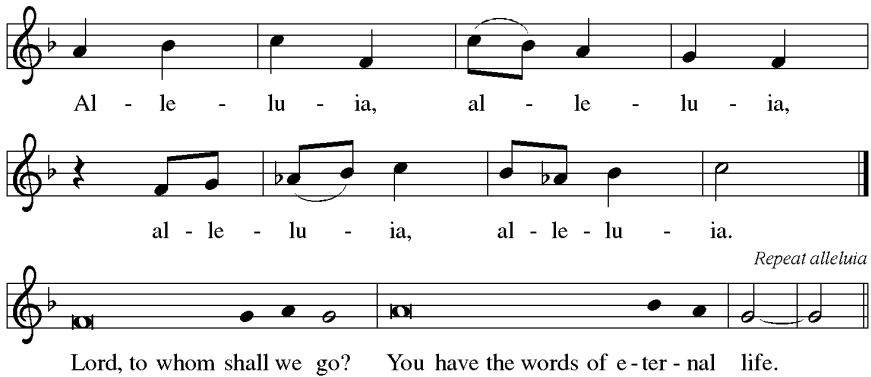
<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20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

☐ This is the word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

## GOSPEL VERSE



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. *Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

## GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 6th chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

### 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?”*

[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.”

## **GOSPEL RESPONSE**

**☞** The Gospel of the Lord.

**☞** Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

## **CHILDREN’S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

*(Silence for a time of reflection)*

*Please stand.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Blessed Assurance***  
(blue hymnal #699)



## **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**

**℣** 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 (*especially*). 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.**

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

**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**THE LITURGY OF THE COMMUNION MEAL**

**THE OFFERING**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Please stand.*

**OFFERTORY HYMN**

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

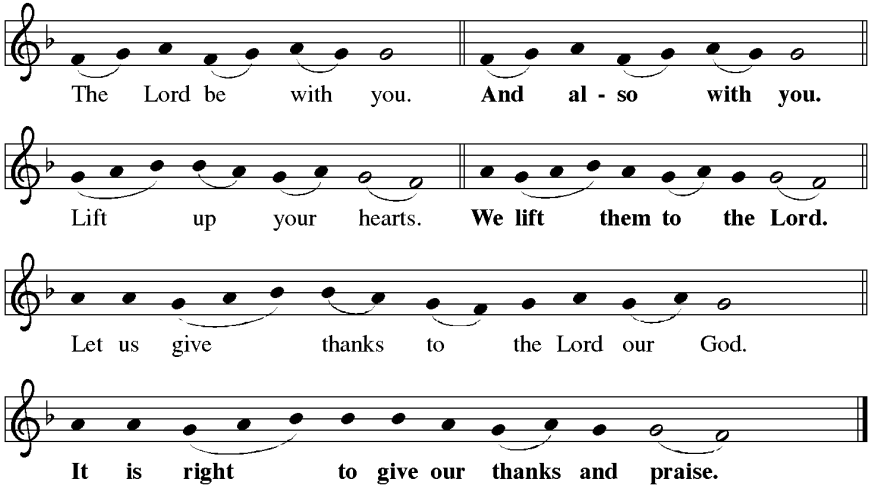
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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# OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**C** Amen.

# DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

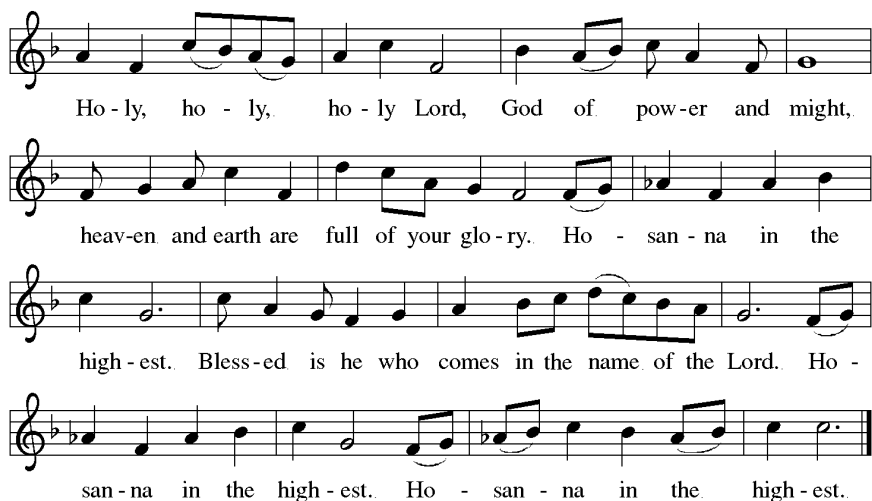
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

# THE PROPER PREFACE

## THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

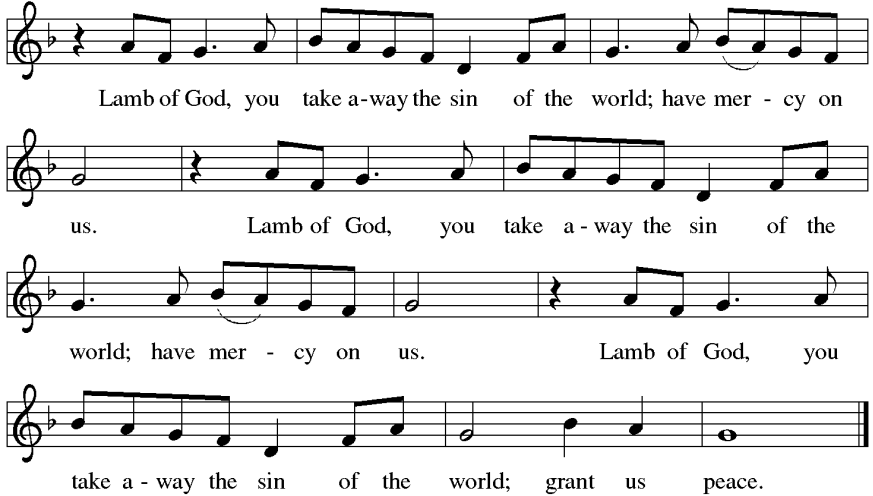
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please come forward to receive the bread, then proceed to the chalice to receive the wine or continue to the second chalice to receive grape juice. Those who do not yet commune may come forward for a blessing.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

**COMMUNION HYMN: *The Lord's My Shepherd***  
(green hymnal #451)

*Please stand*

## BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

## POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

## THE LITURGY OF SENDING FOR SERVICE

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. 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.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

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

☞ Amen.

**SENDING HYMN:** *On Our Way Rejoicing*  
(green hymnal #260)

## DISMISSAL

☞ Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

☞ Thanks be to God. We will!

## POSTLUDE

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**Ministers:** The Members of Zion Lutheran Church  
**Interim Pastor:** Rev. Linda Hostetter  
**Council President:** Diane Covalt-Wiser  
**Administrative Assistant:** Debra Echelmeyer