

Welcome to Worship

August 18th, 2024

Prelude

Why Does Azure Deck the Sky? ~ Charles Villiers Stanford

Gathering Hymn

When in Our Music God is Glorified ~ ELW 851

Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

Psalm

34:9-14

Fear the Lord, you saints of the Lord,
for those who fear the Lord lack nothing.

**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the Lord lack nothing that is good.**

Come, children, and listen to me;

I will teach you reverence for the Lord.

**Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

Keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from lying words.

**Turn from evil and do good;
seek peace and pursue it.**

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:15–20

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice

together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread 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, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 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."

Hymn of the Day

We Eat the Bread of Teaching ~ ELW 518

Musical Offering

Mothering God ~ Tom Trenney (Erin Reil, soprano)

Offertory Hymn

For the Bread Which You Have Broken ~ ELW 494 (vs. 1-2)

Communion Hymn

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom ~ ACS 971

Sending Hymn

By Your Hand You Feed Your People ~ ELW 469

Postlude

Ye Boundless Realms of Joy ~ C. Hubert H. Parry