

Welcome to Worship

August 25th, 2024

Prelude

24 pièces: *Lied* ~ Louis Vierne

Gathering Hymn

When Morning Gilds the Skies ~ ELW 853 (vs. 1-2, 4-5)

Prayer of the Day

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.

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.

Psalm

34:15-22

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
and God's ears are open to their cry.

**The face of the Lord is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

The righteous cry, and the Lord hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

**The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers them from every one.

**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

**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.

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,] “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.” He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 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. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

Hymn of the Day

Lord of All Hopefulness ~ ELW 765

Musical Offering

In This Very Room ~ Ron and Carol Harris
Rhonda Bentz-Soprano

Offertory Hymn

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

Communion Hymn

We Come to the Hungry Feast ~ ELW 479

Sending Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table ~ ELW 522

Postlude

Symphonie Nr. 6: Final (Excerpt) ~ Louis Vierne

Flowers are in honor of Rhonda Bentz’s Birthday