# LORD, TO WHOM CAN WE GO? YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.

AUGUST 25, 2024 FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

#### We are glad you are here! It is always good to be together, hearing the Word proclaimed and sharing in the Lord's Supper.

#### Thank you for choosing to worship at Trinity Lutheran Topeka.

#### Evangelical Lutheran Worship — Setting 2

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.

#### PRELUDE

#### GATHERING

#### <u>Please stand as you are able.</u>

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

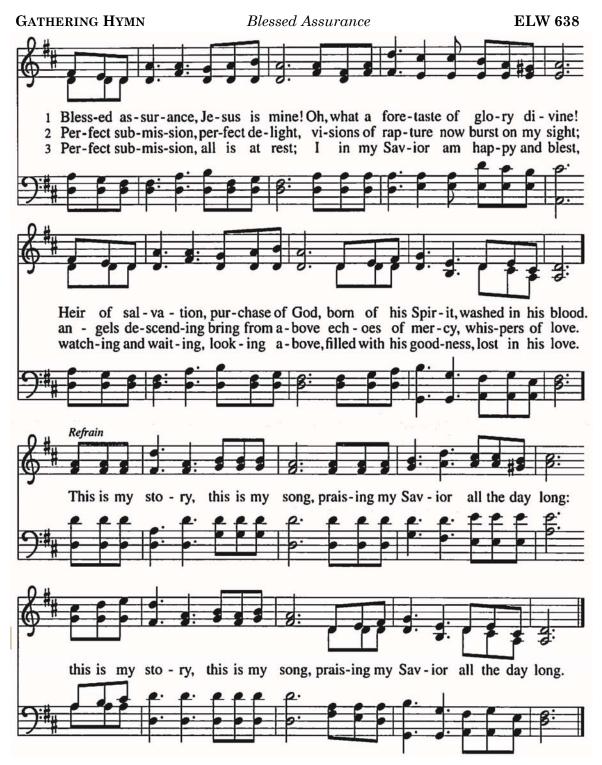
P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

#### C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### C Amen.

- P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
- Silence is kept for reflection.
- P Most merciful God,
- C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.
- P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire for-giveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.



#### GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

Kyrie



HYMN OF PRAISE



#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

A 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.

#### C Amen.

#### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

<u>Please be seated.</u> <u>Please see insert.</u>

#### WORD

#### FIRST READING: JOSHUA 24:1-2A, 14-18

<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."

#### L The Word of the Lord.

#### C Thanks be to God.

#### PSALM 34:15-22

Spoken responsively

 $^{15}\!\mathrm{The}$  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.

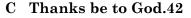
<sup>20</sup>God will keep safe all their bones; not one of them shall be broken.

- <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

<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.

The Word of the Lord. L



Please stand as you are able.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** 



- Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-ter - nal
- Ρ The Holy Gospel, according to John, the sixth chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

#### GOSPEL: JOHN 6:56-69

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."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

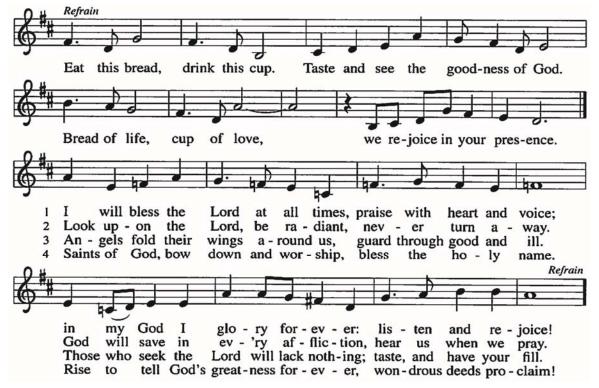
Please be seated.

#### SERMON

#### **PASTOR BARBARA JONES**

HYMN OF THE DAY

Eat This Bread, Drink This CupELW 492Please stand for the final verse of the hymn.



- P Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.
- C 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.

#### THE PRAYERS

A Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

#### A brief silence.

- A Holy God, you have the words of eternal life. Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- A Creator God, we and all creation are sustained by your Word. We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God,

#### C receive our prayer.

A God of wisdom, as our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God,

#### C receive our prayer.

A God of restoration, bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those in our hearts, especially Donna Allen, David McGinnis, and Stephanie Frison (Charlotte's granddaughter). Merciful God,

#### C receive our prayer.

A God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God,

#### C receive our prayer.

- A God of joy, we pray for Loni Reece, Shelley Andrews, and Heather Klamm as they celebrate their birthdays and for Camdyn Ralph, Carsyn Ralph, and Janeen Horton as they remember their baptisms. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.

- P God of every generation, we remember with thanksgiving all who have completed their baptismal journeys. Strengthen us in our baptismal callings to serve you faithfully until our journey's end. Merciful God,
- C receive our prayer.
- P We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.
- C Amen.

#### THE PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.



#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

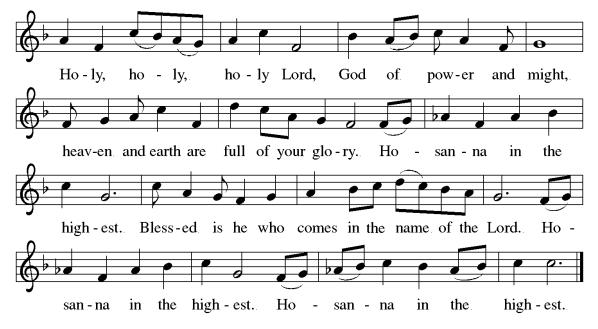
A Let us pray.

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.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



#### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
- Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

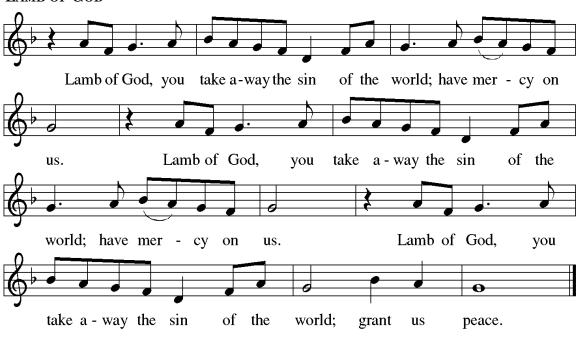
#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
- C 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! <u>Please be seated.</u>



#### LAMB OF GOD

**COMMUNION HYMN** 



#### Please stand as you are able.

#### **COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.

#### SENDING

#### BLESSING

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

#### C Amen.

SENDING HYMN	When Morning Gilds the Skies	ELW 853
		See page 15

#### DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
- C Thanks be to God.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments downstairs in Fellowship Hall immediately after worship.

#### POSTLUDE



UPCC	MING EVENTS AT TRINIT	Y		
Today, Aug. 25 Worship with	Children's Sunday School Holy Communion/Blessing of			
Tues., Aug. 27				
Sunday, Sept. 1	Doorstep Food Collection			
	Hymn Sing Along			
Wa	orship with Holy Communion			
	Coffee Hour	after worship		
	Congregational Life meeting	-		

We ask that you stay for a congregational meeting that will be held immediately following worship today, Sunday, August 25. The sole purpose of the meeting is to obtain congregational approval to spend in excess of \$10,000. for repairs of our elevator. Currently the elevator is not operational. The work will be completed by MEI Total Elevator Solutions. Our congregation's constitution requires the membership to approve expenditures exceeding \$10,000. If you are a voting member, please stay for this meeting. The definition of a voting member, as dictated by Trinity constitution follows:

c. **Voting** members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of the congregation as well as the other rights and privileges ascribed to voting members by the provisions of this constitution and its bylaws.



The A Capella choir from Concordia University of Nebraska (Seward) will visit Topeka on their fall tour. This is the first year that they are having a fall tour, and we are honored that Topeka is on their itinerary.

Co-Sensored by the Lutheran (The Arts) Council of Topens Lutheran Church. This concert will be Friday, September 6 at 7:00PM at Faith Lutheran Church. This concert will be free and open to everyone.

If you can host two or more students, you can register with Faith online at <u>https://forms.gle/uH182cNPJy6vNPca6</u>, or <u>srthowe@gmail.com</u>.

### Fundraiser for Elevator Repair

We need to raise funds to cover the cost for repairs of our elevator. Currently the elevator is not operational. MEI Total Elevator Solutions gave us a bid for the repairs needed. The cost exceeds \$10,000.

Covering this amount will put a strain on Trinity's financial resources.

We are asking you to consider making a donation to the Elevator Fund. Matching funds up to \$1,000 are available. Mark your gift "Elevator Fund" and place it in the offering or mail to the office. Watch for special envelopes in your bulletins and pews. This fundraiser will continue for the next 60 days (ends mid-October).

As you can see by the graphic, we have received \$1,000 toward the elevator repair ex-





## Blessing of the Back Packs

\$11,500 \$11,000

\$10,500

\$10,000 \$9,500

\$8,500

\$8,000

\$7,500 \$7,000

\$6,500

\$5,500

\$5,000 \$4,500

\$4,000

\$3,500

\$2,500 \$2,000

\$1,500

\$500

We are glad you have joined us today with your school backpacks, work bags, computer bags, gym bags, purses, diaper bags, ANY bags as we offer a blessing for these essential parts of our daily lives.

	Worship Assistants							
Date	Acolytes	Ushers	Musician	Lector	Altar Guild	Asst. Minister	Presiding Minister	Coffee Hosts
Aug. 25		Diane Bottorff, Marcy Carl- son	Laurie Jackson	Shelley Andrews	Jane Lewis & Team 2	Bob Horton	Pr. Barb Jones	Diane Bottorff
Sept. 1	Parker Jackson	Duane Pomeroy, Howard Reece		Marcy Carlson	Cindy McGinnis & Team 3	Marcy Carlson	Pr. Barb Jones	
Sept. 8	Brayden Winsor	Diane Bottorff, Bob Horton		LaVell Winsor	Cindy McGinnis & Team 3	Ted Murphy	Pr. Barb Jones	
Sept. 15	Cindy McGinnis	Dean McGinnis, Duane Pomeroy		Debbie Pomeroy	Cindy McGinnis & Team 3	Bob Horton	Pr. Barb Jones	

OFFERIN	OFFERING, ATTENDANCE, and FINANCIAL STATUS							
Date	General	Other	Total Weekly Income	Average Weekly Expense	Weekly Income Minus Average Weekly Expense	Attend- ance/ Commun-		
July 28	\$1,426.00	\$40.00	\$1,466.00	-\$2,211.54	-\$745.54	36/28		
Aug. 4	\$3,270.95	\$110.00	\$3,380.95	-\$2,211.54	\$1,169.41	30/26		
Aug. 11	\$1,126.00	\$0.00	\$1,126.00	-\$2,211.54	-\$1,085.54	33/30		
Aug. 18	\$1,301.00	\$1,110.00	\$2,411.00	-\$2,211.54	\$199.46	29/27		
		July 2024	\$6,802.00	-\$12,717.59	-\$5,915.59			
		Jan July	\$64,471.82	-\$75,195.98	-\$10,724.16			

# Hymn Sing Along = Food for Our Soul Food Donation for Doorstep = Food for Our Neighbors



Next Sunday, Sept. 1, is our food collection day for Doorstep. If you forget to bring food for donation, you may drop it off at the office during the week. Please remember our neighbors in need when you do your grocery shopping.



# **Urgent Food Needs!**

DOORSTEP

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

## We are currently out of, or low on these food items:

- Spaghetti Sauce
- Spaghetti O's
- Canned Tomatoes
- Pancake Mix
- Egg Noodles
- Tuna
- Cream of Mushroom Soup

- Mac & Cheese

- Ramen Noodles
- Hamburger/Tuna Helper
- Scalloped/Mashed Potatoes
- Saltine Crackers Baked Beans (Canned)
- Mixed Veggies \_\_\_\_ 
   Corn & Peas (Canned)
  - Tomato Soup



**Donations Accepted M-F 9-2 Enter Through South Door\*** 



#### TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

725 SW Buchanan St. • Topeka, Kansas 66606 Phone: 785-233-0767 • Email: office@topekatlc.org Website: trinitylutherantopeka.org

OFFICE HOURS 10:00AM-3:30PM, Monday through Thursday

# Together in Community Living with Christ

## Caring for Neighbors

Together in Community

We are a faith community brought together to worship God and to be of service to the needs of the world as the Great Commandment is our guide in our lives (*Matthew 22:36-39, Mark 12:29-31, and Luke 10:26-27*). We are a congregation that seeks to reach all those in our county with members spread throughout Topeka area, while being rooted in Historic Old Town. In our faith, we hope to be a symbol of Christ's love in the world (*John 15:12*), to be a community of support and care (*Galatians 6:2*), and to proclaim the good news that Jesus Christ came to be a Savior for all people (*Colossians 1:13-14*).

#### **CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

President Diane Bottorff Vice-President Curt Lewis (Maintenance) Secretary Shelley Andrews (Administration) Parker Jackson (Administration) Steve Luoma (Community Relations) Carol Marker (Spiritual Care) Dean McGinnis (Congregational Life) Janelle Meredith (Community Relations) Duane Pomeroy (Spiritual Care) Treasurer Bob Kobbeman