



**MESSIAH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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Pastor Amy Truhe  
August 8, 2021

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Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost  
ELW Setting 5

**Prelude**

Prelude and Fugue in F

Vincent Lübec

Call and Response:

If God kept track of all our mistakes—  
**the harmful things we say and do,**  
**the callous way we sometimes treat the people around us,**  
**the selfishness that puts our needs ahead of the needs of others—**  
if God kept track, what chance would we have?

With unfailing love, God offers us forgiveness—  
**complete forgiveness that erases our sins completely,**  
**and allows us to begin again.**

So be at peace – your sins are forgiven!

**Praise be to God!**

~ by Christine LonghurstHY

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God, our provider, **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.**

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.

**Amen.**

**Entrance Hymn** : Eat this Bread, Drink this Cup #492

**Kyrie** p. 156

**Canticle of Praise** p. 159

### **Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, **your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **First Reading: 1 Kings 19:4-8**

*First Kings chapter 18 describes the contest between Elijah and the prophets of Baal. The contest proves that the LORD is God, and afterward Elijah orders the killing of the Baal prophets. Angered by the deaths of her prophets, Queen Jezebel threatens to kill Elijah. This reading finds Elijah fleeing, fatigued, and in utter despair.*

<sup>4</sup>[Elijah] went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."<sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat."<sup>6</sup>He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you."<sup>8</sup>He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

### **Psalm: Psalm 34:1-8**

*Taste and see that the LORD is good. (Ps. 34:8)*

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at all times; the praise of God shall ever be in my mouth.

<sup>2</sup>**I will glory in the LORD; let the lowly hear and rejoice.**

<sup>3</sup>Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD; let us exalt God's name together.

<sup>4</sup>**I sought the LORD, who answered me and delivered me from all my terrors.**

<sup>5</sup>Look upon the LORD and be radiant, and let not your faces be ashamed.

**<sup>6</sup>I called in my affliction, and the LORD heard me and saved me from all my troubles.**

<sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear the LORD and delivers them.

**<sup>8</sup>Taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are they who take refuge in God!**

## **Second Reading: Ephesians 4:25--5:2**

*Christians are called to be imitators of God. This does not mean Christians are perfect. Rather, the Spirit is at work in our lives so that our actions and attitudes genuinely reflect the love and forgiveness we have received through Christ and his death.*

<sup>25</sup>So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. <sup>26</sup>Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, <sup>27</sup>and do not make room for the devil. <sup>28</sup>Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. <sup>29</sup>Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. <sup>30</sup>And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. <sup>31</sup>Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, <sup>32</sup>and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. <sup>5:1</sup>Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, <sup>2</sup>and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

The Word of the Lord; **Thanks be to God!**

**Gospel Acclamation:**

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**Gospel: John 6:35, 41-51**

**Glory to you, O Lord!**

*After feeding more than five thousand people in the wilderness, Jesus teaches them regarding the true significance of this remarkable sign.*

<sup>35</sup>Jesus said to [the crowd,] “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>41</sup>Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They were saying, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?” <sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Do not complain among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. <sup>46</sup>Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup>Your

ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup>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 Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

## Sermon

Hymn of the Day

I Am the Bread of Life

#485

## 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

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

For the church of Christ in all its diverse forms. For mission developers, new mission starts, and all communities of faith exploring new models of ministry for the sake of the gospel. For congregations facing difficult decisions about their future. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the health and well-being of creation. For shade trees that provide refuge from the hot summer sun. For lakes, rivers, and oceans contaminated by pollution and all who lack clean water. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those called to positions of authority in our legal system, we pray. For judges, lawyers, law clerks, and court employees who ensure the fair administration of justice. For corrections officers and prison chaplains, that they would deal mercifully with those who are incarcerated. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who cry out to you in their affliction. For exiles, refugees, and others who face long and difficult journeys, uncertain about the future. For all who mourn the death of a loved one. For all who are sick. We especially pray for our members Rolland, Walli, Gloria and Gene,

and Merlyn. We pray for our friends Denise, Bill, Dawn, Stephani, Karla, Danielle, Krista, Betty, Meghan, Robert, Amy, Sharon, and Kim and Jill. We pray for those serving in the military: Alex, Vicki, Ben, Jeremy, T.J., Daniel, Miranda, and Luke. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this assembly gathered around your table, we pray. For those among us who bake bread and prepare the vessels for our communion celebration. For those who bring the food from this table to those who are homebound or hospitalized. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For those who have been raised to eternal life, we give thanks. With (*Dominic, name/s, and*) all the saints we praise you for the bread of life that keeps us in your love forever. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

P: We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you all: **And also with you!**

## **MEAL**

**Offertory**

Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness

Paul Manz

## **Offering Prayer**

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. **Amen.**

**Great Thanksgiving**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

*Congregation sings*

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## **Eucharistic Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer** (sung)

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## **Distribution of Communion**

## **Prayer after Communion**

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. **Amen.**

## **Blessing**

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

**Closing Hymn**

Christ Be our Light

#715

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

“Allegretto”

Gustav Merkel

**Worship Leaders today:**

Steve Gustafson      Organist  
Pari Ford              Liturgist  
Linda Lewis          Lector

**Worship Leaders next week:**

Steve Gustafson      Organist  
Pari Ford              Liturgist  
Julie Aeschliman      Lector

Messiah Lutheran Church  
6/30/2021

	Actual Jun-21	Actual Jan - Jun	Budget Jan - Jun
Revenue	7,703.97	77,826.05	72,579.80
Expenses	7,774.46	68,123.87	80,242.44
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(70.49)</u>	<u>9,702.18</u>	<u>(7,662.64)</u>
Reserve Balance	<u>90,368.81</u>		

**Members, Friends, and Family for Whom We Pray**

**Members of Messiah:**

Rolland Christenson, Walli Ellis, Gloria and Gene Holdsworth, Merlyn Hilt

## Friends of Messiah

Donna Stejksal	Daniels' friend	Karla Goewert	Friend of Kirsten Bruce
Denise	Pari Ford's mother	Danielle	Robbie Peterson's
Bill Stephenson	Joy Janis's brother	VanDeVyvere	granddaughter
Dawn	Sharon Hoffman's Daughter	Krista Bahler	Betty Peterson's Niece
Stephani White	Betty Holcombe's daughter	Betty Finney	Sharon Hoffman's friend
Robert Ahlstedt	Earl Ahlstedt's Brother	Meghan Presley	John & Margaret Presley's Daughter
Kim and Jill Hett		Amy Wright	Friend of Don Anderson
Sharon Texley	friend of Marla Elmquist, Linda Lewis & many others	Marilyn Youngquist	Sharon Hoffman's sister

## Serving the U.S.A.

Alex Klapp	Betty Russin's grandson	Vicki Charboneau	Elaine Eller's granddaughter
Ben Youngquist	S Hoffman's nephew	Jeremy Guy	Hensley's son-in-law
T.J. Paulsen	Barb Malm's child		
Daniel & Miranda Norland	Randy/Gretchen's son & wife		
Luke Hammontree	Daniel's grandson		

## Seminary

Kaylie Ines

## **Wider Church by Jeanne Ahlers**

We hear talk about bipartisanship in the Senate. Do we understand how necessary it is?

The Senate is evenly divided between Democrats and Republicans. This means that important issues are being debated with neither party able to count on being in the majority. On the other hand, it means that every issue can be debated thoughtfully and completely, assuming that the senators' constituents care enough to let them know how they feel.

An important issue is infrastructure. We use our highways and bridges, electricity and water and take them for granted. But they didn't just happen. And at the moment, the Senate has agreed to open debate on a multimillion dollar bipartisan infrastructure framework. The vote

represents more than roads and bridges. It demonstrates that policy makers, working together, can address the big challenges our nation faces.

If this infrastructure investment is signed into law, it would mean many things: more robust rural broadband access, improved electric grid reliability, environmental protection, deployment of innovative energy technologies, and jobs with competitive pay across the country. It would address profound human needs and support a robust recovery. But our voices are needed more than ever to encourage continued bipartisan collaboration.

The ELCA social teaching recognizes that infrastructure investments can promote the well-being of communities as well as the environment. It encourages contacting those who can forward these interests. Our Senators can be contacted by calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121, and telling the operator our state and the member we wish to speak to. Then we can urge them to vote YES on infrastructure investment. If the Senator voted in favor of moving forward, express appreciation. If not, urge them to vote YES once the bill comes to a final vote.

### **Announcements**

The next **KICK** event on August 15th is a back to school bash with inflatables at Swensson Park from 5 to 7:30 pm. There will be Bible lessons, camp songs, pulled pork bbq and more.

For **Hyllningsfest** Messiah has been asked to donate 60 loaves of rye bread. We have received a generous donation to cover about 30 of the bread loaves. We will have a sign-up sheet available next week in the Fellowship Hall.

**Stuff a Microwave!** Bethany College Student Development is asking for microwaveable foods to "stuff a microwave." Three microwaves will be given out in a drawing of names from those who come to campus vaccinated for COVID-19. This incentive is part of keeping campus and our community safe! When you bring your microwaveable donations, please put them in the basket by Pastor's office. Thank you!

**STEPMC** is looking for caring people who want to make a difference! Right now, we are in need of meal providers in Smoky Valley, and we could use your help! Visit [stepmc.org](http://stepmc.org) for more information.

Collections for our **LWR School Kits** are continuing. On our table in the Fellowship Hall is a list of what is still needed to fill our school bags. Additional school supplies will be given to our local schools. Thank you for donations already received!

**AUGUST 8, 2021**  
**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



*Eternal life begins now through faith in Jesus.*

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 6:35, 41-51</b>	<b>Bread from heaven</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>1 Kings 19:4-8</b>	<b>Elijah flees from Jezebel</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:25–5:2</b>	<b>Rules for the new life</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Colossians 1:9-14</b>	<b>Paul thanks God</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Proverbs 8:32-36</b>	<b>Listen to what you are taught</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>1 Timothy 6:11-16</b>	<b>The good fight of faith</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 34:1-8</b>	<b>Taste and see</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 6:51-58</b>	<b>Christ, the true food and drink</b>

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK**

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."* **John 6:35 (NRSV)**

**PRAYERS AND BLESSING**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, give us faith to see in Jesus the bread of life that feeds us and cares for us now and always. Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear Bread of Life, we thank you that with this gift of food, we taste and see that you are good. Amen. (Psalm 34:8 and John 6:35)

**A Blessing to Give:**

May God come to you and bless you with faith and hope through Christ our Lord.

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

*We Are an Offering*

## WEEKLY MILESTONES CARING CONVERSATIONS

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that you look forward to?
- How do your hopes for the future affect your life today?
- How does faith in Jesus impact your life today and in the future?

## DEVOTIONS

Read: John 6:35, 41-51.

Twice in this text Jesus says “*I am the bread of life*” (vv. 35 and 48). He also says “*I am the living bread*” (v. 51). These words create tension with those who object to Jesus making such claims about himself. This text acknowledges that the uniqueness of Jesus causes a divide between those who accept Jesus’ identity and those who do not. This passage does not try to explain why some believe while others do not, except to note that those who believe in Jesus do so by God’s power. Jesus also states that believing in him as the one who is the bread of life gives not just life but eternal life. The eternal life that Jesus gives begins now, not just at some future time. It is not for us to understand how one comes to believe in Jesus as the bread of life, except to know that it is a gift from God. Jesus is the source of life that begins now and knows no end. It is a life entered through faith in Jesus, the one whose life feeds the world in hope. How is it helpful for you to know that eternal life with God has already begun?

Pray: **Living God, give us Jesus, the bread of life, that we may live each day in faith, hope, and love. Amen.**

## SERVICE

Ephesians 4:26 says: “*do not let the sun go down on your anger.*” Anger that festers against others destroys relationships and entire communities. Take time this week to reflect on those with whom you may have experienced conflict. Pray for a clean heart that forgives this person and that you can receive forgiveness from this person.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Sometimes we are focused on the future or on disappointments in life and miss God’s care for us now. Write a list of ways God’s eternal care blesses your life today. After composing the list pray: **Gracious God, thank you for caring for [name what is on your list]. Thank you for the gift of life that blesses me now and in the future. Amen.**

In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to:

[www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)