

**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Sunday, August 22, 2021  
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life and we have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.*



**Thought:** *“Choose This Day Whom You will Serve” says Joshua to the people of God. Peter says to Jesus – “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.”*

*Choosing is making a decision! Choosing is say, I believe and stand upon what I have said and what my heart tells me. Choosing is not wobbling or wavering or deciding to do it later...this is now! If we claim that Jesus is the Holy One of God, then waiting till later is not an option. Choose THIS Day. You cannot serve both God and whatever this world holds for you.... or can you? A good Question to pray about.*

**Prelude – Lillian Pinkston**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prayer Concerns**

**Sharing of the Peace**

### Call to Worship

A: Why have YOU come here?

**C: We have come for the hope and wholeness we find in God.**

A: But why have you COME here?

**C: We have come because we are pilgrims, and Christ is found on the journey.**

A: But why have you come HERE?

**C: We have come because this place and these people offer the Spirit's sanctuary.**

A: By the Spirit's movement, we have chosen, so let us worship!

### Gathering Music

Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart – Bestlovedhymns

<https://youtu.be/CmWVY4n-wY>

#800 ELW – Lillian Pinkston

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth, through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, strength to me import, and make me love you as I ought to love.

Have you not bid me love you, God and King; all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind? I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling. Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!

### Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness**

**P:** Forgive us, O God, when your Words and Ways seem difficult.

*A time of silence and reflection*

Soften us when we harden our views about you and about others into rigid opinions inflexible to the Spirit's movement.

**C:** Refresh us when we parch ourselves and others dry with formulas instead of relationships, with offense taken instead of understanding granted. Remind us through your Spirit that even when we stumble, you are there to renew our spirits, to enlighten our minds, to cast away that which deadens us and others, and to take on that which lead to life in Jesus Christ.

**P:** We choose to follow Christ, not because we must but because we may.

**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**

**P:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C:** Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the people of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen and Amen!**

## Hymn of Praise

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light – Chris Brunelle

<https://youtu.be/eHMkLlwP7el>

## Prayer of the Day

A: The question is still asked, O God:

**C: “To whom shall we go?”**

A: The option not to serve you still entices:

**C: “Choose this day whom you will serve.”**

A: Yet your voice has spoken, O God –

**C: through your prophets...through your Son.**

A: You have reached into every nation.

**C: You have called people, worldwide.**

A: You have called us, O God. What can we do but respond?

**C: “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!”**

A: Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now...

**C: and forever. Amen.**

## The Word

**Old Testament reading – Joshua 24:12a, 14-18**

*Joshua calls all Israel to serve the Lord*

<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.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 34:15-22**

*The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous*

<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 everyone.

<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.

### **Ephesians 6:10-20**

*Put on the Whole Armor of God*

<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. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel: John 6:56-69**

<https://youtu.be/HEfgpJiLlxA>

*“Lord, To whom shall we go?”*

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Children's Time**

<https://youtu.be/-0kl1lq2WMA>

**Homily – “Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve”**

<https://youtu.be/Vtd6EndvSoM>

Music of the Day –

O Master Let Me Walk with Thee – James Biery

<https://youtu.be/CdmeFsNRtAE>

#818 ELW – Lillian Pinkston

O Master, let me walk with you in lowly paths of service true; tell me your secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way, in peace that only you can give; with you, O Master, let me live.

**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**

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

*A brief silence.*

**A:** We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**A:** We pray for creation. Send rain to lands experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture wheat and barley crops grown for the nourishment of your people and conserve aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God **C:**

**Your mercy is great.**

**A:** We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great**

**A:** We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens, those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those without health insurance. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**A:** We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God **C:**

**Your mercy is great.**

**A:** We give thanks for who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so swell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with (the apostle James, names and) all the saints, the love Christ that surpasses knowledge. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**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

## Offering

### Offertory Prayer

A: We speak with your children Israel, O God:

**C: “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods.”**

A: Accept our offerings. Accept our bold confession:

**C: “We also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”**

A: Bless our service, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**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.**

## Preface

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

Lamb of God – Catholic Mass Song

<https://youtu.be/LcgpnvQPoaQ>

## Words of Institution

### **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,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **Distribution**

Communion Music – Lillian Pinkston

**OR**

Amazing Grace – Gary Downey  
<https://youtu.be/CDdvReNKKuk>

### **Post Communion Blessing – Pastor**

#### **Post Communion Prayer**

A: You have the words of eternal life, O Christ.

**C: You ARE the Word of eternal life.**

A: Having feasted on your goodness, guide us to lives of service,

**C: and at last to eternal life.**

A: We bless you now and evermore.

**C: Amen.**

## **Benediction – Numbers 6**

### **Sending Music**

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing – Mormon Tabernacle Choir (2011)  
<https://youtu.be/gPKpkrqBwNs>

#807 ELW – Lillian Pinkston

Come, thou Fount of every blessing, turn my heart to sing thy grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise. While the  
hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to  
adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let that grace  
now like a fetter bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I  
feel it; prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;  
seal it for thy courts above.

### **Dismissal**

A: Lord, to whom shall we go?

**C: You, O Lord have the Words of Eternal life, we go to serve.**

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston



