

help to protect those around us, especially those who are immunocompromised, or children who are yet unable to get the vaccine. When we wear masks, we show our love and care for them. Perhaps, one could say, that we are being "angels for others" when we wear our masks.

Peace,
Pastor Cathy



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
August 22, 2021
**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ's Family
in Spreading God's Love and Mercy**

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.

**(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)
Announcements*

Gathering
*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God**

Prelude....A time for silent reflection

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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.

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.

Gathering Hymn

"Gather Us In"

ELW #532

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

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation,
Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Recently, my aunt and I went for a ride to West Salem. As we were driving around town, (I think we were on Elm Street at the time), we noticed something neither of us had seen before. In front of a house, there was what looked like a "Little Free Library," but instead, it was a cabinet filled with COVID-19 masks and face shields available for anyone for free. (See photo.)

We are probably all familiar with the "Little Free Libraries" that are available across the United States. Perhaps you have seen the new ones provided by the Onatario Public Library, that are in Palen Park, Park Street Park, and the Community Garden in Ontario. The concept is that people can take a book, for free, and return it, or even add a new one. The cabinet in front of the house in West Salem, unlike the "Little Free Libraries," contains free face masks and face shields for individual use. But it's goal too, is to help one's neighbor. Perhaps, this is because, as the smaller sign on the left hand side of the photo states, "DELTA COVID [is] 200 times [more] contagious."

Perhaps the person who owns the house realized that some health professionals were having a hard time obtaining face shields to wear for their own protection and the protection of their patients. Perhaps the person realized that some individuals going to medical appointments, taverns or restaurants, did not have face masks or face shields to wear. As a result, the person decided to offer these items free of charge, to assist others in his/her own way, thereby helping people to stay safer during this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

But there is more to this photo. If you look on the right hand side behind the "Little Free COVID Mask Cabinet," you will see a wooden representation of an angel. The angel is wearing a mask. Perhaps this is the owner's way of reminding us of the protection of angels, and that we can be "angels" for others. When we wear masks and face shields, we

CALENDAR

Today	Council Meeting	10:00 am
Sun., August 29	Worship	9:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Winter schedule will begin on September 12 with 9:00 am Sunday School, followed by worship at 10:15 am.

Adult Bible Study will be starting the end of September or early in October. We will be studying Manna and Mercy by Daniel Erlander. The church will provide the material, however, should you wish to have a personal copy, the cost will be \$10.00.

Pastor will notify Junior High students with the start date of Confirmation.

The funeral for Pam Eaton will be held here, this Tuesday, at 10:30 am. Masks will be required. There will not be visitation with the family prior to the service. Pam will be laid to rest next to her parents in a private burial at St. Paul's Cemetery following the service. We extend our sympathy to the family and take comfort in knowing Pam has claimed the promise of eternal life.

In case of emergency, contact Pastor Cathleen, via text, 608-865-1074, Justin Arndt (608-435-6336) (414-587-6642) or Nalani Bever, To activate the prayer chain, please contact Nalani (608-387-2311)

Additional Contact Information:

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FACEBOOK!! Home page: St. Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI

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P: For the peace 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Amen.

***Canticle of Praise**

“This is the Feast”

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***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

Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.**

FIRST READING

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.

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

¹Then 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. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the

people, ¹⁴“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. ¹⁵Now 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.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; ¹⁷for 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; ¹⁸and 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 39:9-14

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

*Benediction

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Sending Hymn

“Thine The Amen”

ELW #826

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People, Pastor: Cathleen Morris,
Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Ayawyn Conner; Communion
Server: Karen Arzt

IN OUR PRAYERS

Katie Wallace, Judy Bever, Darlene and Paul Babbitt, Pam Eaton,
Alrita Ornes, Tessa Klipstein, Jim Finer, Jerry Nading, Rhett Flaten,
Bob Schendel, Richard Zitlow, Jeff DuCharme, Louie Voltz, Etta Mae
Henze, Gary Von Ruden, Judy Nofsinger, Larry Voltz, David Berg,
Sue Ann Degenhardt, Myles Garske

IN THE MILITARY

Jacob Picha, Todd Nofsinger, Dylan Dougherty, Seth Tormoen,
Robert Cale, Danelle Dougherty

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

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*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Words of Institution

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.
Come!

Distribution

Everyone who believes in Jesus is welcome at Christ's table.

"Lamb of God"

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*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.

SECOND READING

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.

Ephesians 6:10-20

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For 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. ¹³Therefore 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. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray 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. ¹⁹Pray 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, ²⁰for 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 Acclamation

ELW p.151

*GOSPEL READING

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?”

The gospel according to John 6:56-69

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] ⁵⁶“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸This 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.” ⁵⁹He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But 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. ⁶⁵And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

⁶⁶Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

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

Sermon

Hymn

“I Come With Joy”

ELW #482

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** (God in your mercy, **hear our prayer**)

OFFERING

Offering plates are located in the Narthex as you enter and exit the church.

Offertory 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.**