

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP!



*The fear of the LORD  
is the beginning  
of wisdom;  
all those  
who  
practice  
it have  
a good  
understanding.*

Psalm 111:10, NRSV

**I Am the Bread of Life:  
I Give Wisdom and Life**  
*Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

August 18, 2024



## Welcome To Worship

If you are a visitor to our church, we extend you a warm welcome! We are happy you are here. Please fill out a Connect Card to let us know how we can continue to serve you.

Restrooms are located in the hallway outside the gym. If you would like one, large print copies of the service folder or a children's bulletin for kids are available from the ushers. One of our ushers can also help you find the restrooms or answer any other questions you may have.

## Service Notes For This Service



There are many different theories about the healthiest way to eat. There's the old food pyramid, built on a foundation of whole grains. There's the Mediterranean diet, the Atkins diet, the Paleo diet, and many others. We can debate which is best, but what is undebatable is that whatever your diet, you are going to die. Perhaps a vegetarian diet is indeed easier on your heart. Still, your heart is going to stop eventually. But in his Bread of Life discourse, Jesus offers food that enables us to live forever.

There are foods you might never have tasted without someone working hard to convince you to try them. Likewise, this spiritual food that Jesus describes is something no one finds appealing at first, but distasteful. And so today Jesus explains that we need God to work within us, so that we have the wisdom to see that this food gives life and the faith to find this bread most delicious.

## Those Serving in Worship

Pastor Peter Plagenz; Accompanist Kristi Perry

## Acknowledgements

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# The Service:

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## Welcome

### Hymn

528 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate



1 Christ, the Word of God in - car - nate, Lord and Son of  
2 Christ, the liv - ing bread from heav - en, food for bod - y,  
3 Christ, the shoot that springs tri - um - phant from the stump of  
4 Christ, our good and faith - ful shep - herd, watch - ing all your



A - bra - ham; Christ, the ra - diance of the Fa - ther,  
food for soul; Christ, the man - na, dai - ly giv - en,  
Jes - se's tree; Christ, true vine, you nur - ture branch - es  
lambs and sheep; Christ, the gate that guards the sheep - fold,



per - fect God, the great I AM; Christ, the light, you  
nour - ish, strength - en, make us whole. Feed us with the  
to bear fruit a - bun - dant - ly. Graft us in - to  
nev - er - fail - ing vig - il keep. When we stray, Good



shine un - van - quished, light and life you bring to all; light our  
food of heav - en, fore - taste of the feast to be; quench our  
you, O Sav - ior; prune our hearts so we re - main fruit - ful  
Shep - herd, seek us, find us, lift us, bear us home; Lamb of



path with your own pres - ence, grant us grace to heed your call.  
thirst with liv - ing wa - ter spring - ing up e - ter - nal - ly.  
branch - es in your vine - yard till e - ter - nal life we gain.  
God, our shep - herd, keep us; let us hear your voice a - lone.

- 5 **Christ, the way that leads un failing  
to the Father's home on high;  
Christ, the truth that frees the captive,  
Christ, the life that cannot die;  
mediator to the Father,  
sacrifice and great High Priest:  
lead us to your heav'nly mansions,  
there to share your wedding feast.**
- 6 **Christ, the Alpha and Omega,  
Christ, the firstborn from the dead;  
Christ, the life and resurrection,  
Christ, the Church's glorious head:  
praise and thanks and adoration  
and unending worship be  
to the Father and the Spirit  
and to you eternally.**

Text: Steven P. Mueller, b. 1964 © 2001 Steven P. Mueller. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903  
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1825, ed. William Moore; Public domain

*Stand*

In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **Confession**

*CW 172*

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{T}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**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.**

## Glory to God in the Highest

1002 Gloria (Amer) - WEBB

*Tune: WEBB*



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,  
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!  
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;  
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.  
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

# The Word

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Gracious Father, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Grant that Christ, the bread of life, may live in us and we in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*Be seated*

## First Reading

*Proverbs 9:1–6*

*In this poetic reading, spiritual wisdom is personified as a kind woman. Lady Wisdom invites us to dine on the spiritual food that empowers us to truly live.*

<sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house. She has carved out her seven pillars. <sup>2</sup>She has prepared her meat. She has mixed her wine. She has already set her table. <sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant girls. She calls from the highest point in the city, <sup>4</sup>“Whoever is naïve, let him turn in here.” To someone who lacks sense she says, <sup>5</sup>“Come, eat my food, and drink the wine that I have mixed. <sup>6</sup>Abandon your naïve ways and live. Travel the road to understanding.”

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

## Psalm of the Day

*Psalm 111*

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD!

I will thank the LORD with all my heart

**in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation.**

<sup>2</sup>Great are the deeds of the LORD.

**They are studied by all who delight in them.**

<sup>3</sup>Glorious and majestic is his work,

**and his righteousness stands forever.**

<sup>4</sup>He has set up a memorial to his wonders.

**Gracious and compassionate is the LORD.**

<sup>5</sup>He gives food to those who fear him.

**He remembers his covenant forever.**

<sup>6</sup>He has declared the power of his deeds to his people,

**to give them the nations as their possession.**

<sup>7</sup>The works of his hands are truth and justice.

**All his precepts are trustworthy,**

<sup>8</sup>steadfast forever and ever,  
**done in truth and uprightness.**

<sup>9</sup>He sent redemption for his people.  
**He commanded his covenant forever.**

Holy and awesome is his name.

<sup>10</sup>**The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.**

All who do his precepts have good understanding.

**His praise stands forever.**

## Second Reading

1 Corinthians 2:6–16

*St. Paul explains that we need a wisdom that only the Spirit can give, a wisdom that understands that in Christ we have the bread of life.*

<sup>6</sup>Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature, but it is not a wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are being reduced to nothing. <sup>7</sup>Instead we speak God's wisdom that has been hidden in mystery—before the ages, God foreordained that this wisdom would result in our glory. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this world knew it. (If they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.) <sup>9</sup>But as it is written:

What no eye has seen and no ear has heard  
and no human mind has conceived—  
that is what God has prepared for those who love him.

<sup>10</sup>But God revealed it to us through his Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>Indeed, who among men knows a man's thoughts except the man's spirit within him? So also, no one else knows God's thoughts except God's Spirit.

<sup>12</sup>What we received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we might know the blessings freely given to us by God. <sup>13</sup>We also speak about these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual truths with spiritual words.

<sup>14</sup>However, an unspiritual person does not accept the truths taught by God's Spirit, because they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually evaluated. <sup>15</sup>But the spiritual person evaluates all things, and he himself is evaluated by no one.

<sup>16</sup>Indeed, “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who will instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

## Gospel Acclamation

John 6:44

Alleluia. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them,  
**and I will raise them up at the last day. Alleluia.**

# Gospel

John 6:35-51

*Jesus declares that anyone wise enough to eat the bread of life will live forever.*

<sup>35</sup>“I am the Bread of Life,” Jesus told them. “The one who comes to me will never be hungry, and the one who believes in me will never be thirsty. <sup>36</sup>But I said to you that you have also seen me, and you do not believe. <sup>37</sup>Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup>For I have come down from heaven, not to do my will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup>And this is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me, but raise them up on the Last Day. <sup>40</sup>For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him may have eternal life. And I will raise him up on the Last Day.”

<sup>41</sup>So the Jews started grumbling about him, because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They asked, “Isn't this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? So how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’”

<sup>43</sup>Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. <sup>44</sup>No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the Last Day. <sup>45</sup>It is written in the Prophets, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. <sup>46</sup>I am not saying that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He is the one who has seen the Father. <sup>47</sup>Amen, Amen, I tell you: The one who believes in me has eternal life.

<sup>48</sup>“I am the Bread of Life. <sup>49</sup>Your fathers ate manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup>This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that anyone may eat it and not die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

## Children’s Message

### Hymn of the Day

633 *Speak, O Lord*



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,  
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



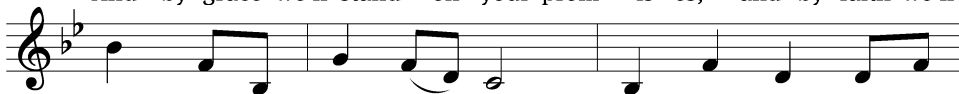
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it  
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our  
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,  
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.  
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of  
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic  
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can  
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.  
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.  
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Text and tune: Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974 © 2006 Thankyou Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 719903

## Sermon

*Stand*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be seated*

## Prayer of the Church

Father in heaven, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to bring peace and hope to our fallen world. Already in eternity you planned to overturn the tyranny of Satan and the ravages of sin and you kept your promises to restore the perfection of paradise.

**Lead us to cherish your great mercy and hold to it as our priceless treasure.**

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise and adore you for offering your perfect life and innocent death to redeem the world from death and hell. You proclaimed the good news that sins are forgiven and life with God is restored and you called your followers to share the gospel with all people.

**Make us bold and confident to be witnesses to family and friends we know and love.**

Holy Spirit, Lord, and giver of life, through Word and sacrament you create and strengthen faith that trusts the promise of the Father and the work of his Son. You break down the barriers of resistance and rejection and bring the lost into the family of God.

**Empower and encourage us to speak about Jesus to neighbors and acquaintances.**

*Special prayers and intercessions*

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, move us by your great love to enter the mission fields near our homes and neighborhoods. Help us always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.

**Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we share the love of Jesus. Amen.**

### ***Special Prayers This Week***

- † For Linda Lucht who was hospitalized.
- † For Sara Batzer who was hospitalized after a fall.
- †
- †
- †
- †
- †
- †

## Connect Card & Offering

Moved by God's love in Christ, we offer him our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to him. Guests, please don't feel obligated to take part in the offering. We're just happy you're here as our guest to hear and take to heart the message of Jesus. If the gospel message has moved you to give and you would like an electronic option, you can scan this QR code with your mobile phone. It will connect you with our website's giving page.



## Musical Offering

### Hymn

581 Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You



1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you; that, I know, could  
2 It was grace in Christ that called me, taught my dark - ened  
3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion, praise the Fa - ther's



nev - er be, for this heart would still re - fuse you  
heart and mind; else the world had yet en - thrall'd me,  
bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our ex - pi - a - tion,



had your grace not cho - sen me. You re - moved the  
to your heav'n - ly glo - ries blind. Now I wor - ship  
Priest and King en - throned a - bove. Praise the Spir - it



sin that stained me, cleans - ing me to be your own; for this  
none a - bove you; for your grace a - lone I thirst, know - ing  
of sal - va - tion, him by whom our spir - its live. Un - di -



pur - pose you or - dained me, that I live for you a - lone.  
well that, if I love you, you, O Fa - ther, loved me first.  
vid - ed ad - o - ra - tion to the great Je - ho - vah give.

Text: Josiah Conder, 1789–1855, alt. Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and  $\text{T}$  give you peace.

**Amen.**

Be Seated

## Hymn

521 Christ the Eternal Lord



1 Christ the e - ter - nal Lord, whose prom - ise here we claim,

2 Christ the un - chang - ing Word to ev - 'ry pass - ing age,



whose gifts of grace are free - ly poured on all who name your name;

whose time - less teach - ings still are heard set forth on Scrip - ture's page;



with thank - ful - ness and praise we stand be - fore your throne,

trans - form our thought and mind, en - light - en all who read,



in - tent to serve you all our days and make your glo - ry known.

with - in your Word by faith to find the bread of life in - deed.

# Take Home Questions

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1. In our first reading from Proverbs 9, notice those to whom wisdom is calling in verses 4 and 5. In what ways does the devil, the world around us, and our flesh push against identifying ourselves in that way?
  - a. Yet, for what reasons is it necessary for us to see ourselves in this way before we can understand true wisdom?
  - b. What words or phrases from our other readings for today echo this truth?
2. In the Gospel, Jesus highlights that “no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him” (Jn 6:44). In what ways is this contrary to what you might hear in other branches of Christianity?
  - a. What words or phrases from our other readings for today echo this truth?
3. The second reading from 1 Corinthians 2 differentiates between worldly wisdom and spiritual wisdom. In our current society and culture, what things are considered wise?
  - a. According to these verses, how is it possible for us to see through the “wisdom” of this world and understand a greater wisdom?

# News & Announcements

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## **Serving at Food Pantry This Week**

*Aug. 19-23*

Our congregation will be serving at the FOCUS Food Pantry this week. The volunteers will be filling grocery orders for area families who are facing financial difficulties. This is also a great time to remind you of the ongoing need for food donations to the pantry. You can bring your donations to the church or to FOCUS (2531 W. Grand Ave.)

## **Help with Newsletter**

*Aug. 22 | 1:00 PM*

Over the last year, a couple of people serving on the newsletter crew have passed away. We are thankful that they were able to serve into their old age. Now, however, our crew is thin. We especially need someone willing to place newsletters into the right mailslots. Newsletter assembly happens once a month and involves tasks like folding, sealing, and labeling the newsletter, as well as placing them in mailslots. The next newsletter assembly is this Thursday, Aug. 22 at 1:00 pm. Your help would be appreciated.

## **New Women's Group Starting in Fall**

*Sept. 9 | 6:30 PM*

Get to know other Christian women at the new St. Paul's Women's Group that is starting up in September. The main focuses will be on spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. We also hope to learn about and to support the mission work happening in our synod. The first meeting will be on Monday, Sept. 9 in the cafeteria and should last about an hour and a half.

## **Study the Proverbs**

*Sept. 4 | 7:00 PM*

"Wisdom is found in those who take advice" (Proverbs 13:10b). The book of Proverbs has lots of advice on how to lead a godly life, and how to avoid the pitfalls of doing things to world's way instead of God's way. The Bible Book Group will be taking on this book beginning Sept. 4. This first meeting will start after the monthly Compline Service, but the group usually meets on Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. We hope you can come.

## **School Opening Service** *Aug. 26 | 9:00 AM*

Join us in asking God's blessings on our school year during the Opening School Service on Monday, Aug. 26 at 9:00 am. The entire school also gathers for worship every Wednesday morning at 8:55 am during the school year. The students and staff are encouraged when other join them at these chapel services.



Sunday	10:00 AM	<b>Outdoor Worship Service</b>
	11:00 AM	<b>Roast Pig/Potluck Lunch</b>
Monday	11:45 AM	Serving at FOCUS Food Pantry
Tuesday	6:45 AM	Men's Bible Study at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	9:45 AM	Women Walking in the Word in the Resource Center
	3:45 PM	Serving at FOCUS Food Pantry
	6:30 PM	Leadership Council in the Resource Center
Wednesday	6:30 PM	School Kick Off Night
Thursday	7:00 AM	Men's Small Group at From the Ground Up Coffee Shop
	11:45 AM	Serving at FOCUS Food Pantry
	1:00 PM	Newsletter Assembly in the Volunteer Workroom
Friday	11:45 am	Serving at FOCUS Food Pantry
Sunday	8:00 AM	Worship
	9:15 AM	Bible Study in the cafeteria
	10:30 AM	Worship

## Attendance Report

Last Week's Attendance: 203

## Next Sunday

Theme: I Am the Bread of Life: The Only Necessary Food

Readings: Joshua 24:1-2,14-18; Hebrews 11:24-28; John 6:51-69

thanks  
★ for ★  
coming

## Upcoming Events

Aug 26	First Day of School
Aug 28	Public School Catechism Class Begins for grades 6-8
Sept. 4	Evening Compline Service
Sept. 4	Bible Book Group – Proverbs Study
Sept. 8	Sunday School Begins for grades 3K-5



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