 **Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

 **August 22, 2021 9:00 AM**

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**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the ☩ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

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 forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN “You Are the Way” ELW #758**

1 You are the way; to you alone

 from sin and death we flee;

 all those who search for God, you find

 and by your grace set free.

2 You are the truth; your word alone

 true wisdom can impart;

 you only can inform the mind

 and purify the heart.

3 You are the life; the rending tomb

 proclaims your conqu'ring arm;

 and those who put their trust in you

 not death nor hell shall harm.

4 You are the way, the truth, the life;

 grant us that way to know,

 that truth to keep, that life to win,

 whose joys eternal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt.

**GREETING**

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.**

**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**

### **First Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

*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.*

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. 2aAnd 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 34:15-22 Reading Responsively**

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.
22O 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**

*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.*

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 “Alleluia” ELW p. 142**

### **Gospel:  John 6:56-69**

*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?”*

[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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON Eric Rudningen**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Blessed Assurance” ELW # 638**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

 Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

 Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

 born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain* This is my story, this is my song,

 praising my Savior, all the day long:

 this is my story, this is my song,

 praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,

 visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

 angels descending bring from above

 echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;

 I in my Savior am happy and blest,

 watching and waiting, looking above,

 filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

**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.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING HYMN “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” ELW# 773**

 Offering plates will be brought to the altar during hymn.

 1. Precious Lord, take my hand

 Lead me on, let me stand

 I am tired, I am weak, I am worn

 Through the storm, [through](https://www.definitions.net/definition/through) the night

 Lead me on to the light

 Take my hand [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, lead me home

 2. When my way [grows](https://www.definitions.net/definition/grows) drear

 Precious Lord [linger](https://www.definitions.net/definition/linger) near

 When my life is [almost](https://www.definitions.net/definition/almost) gone

 Hear my cry, hear my call

 Hold my hand lest I fall

 Take my hand [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, lead me home

 3. When the [darkness](https://www.definitions.net/definition/darkness) appears

 And the [night](https://www.definitions.net/definition/night) draws near

 And the day is past and gone

 At the [river](https://www.definitions.net/definition/river) I stand

 Guide my feet, hold my hand

 Take my hand [precious](https://www.definitions.net/definition/precious) Lord, lead me home

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made children and heirs of God’s promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community (*especially*). Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**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,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”**  **ELW #620**

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

 in a believer's ear!

 It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,

 and drives away all fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole

 and calms the heart's unrest;

 'tis manna to the hungry soul

 and to the weary, rest.

3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,

 my shield and hiding place;

 my never-failing treasury, filled

 with boundless stores of grace.

4 By thee my prayers acceptance gain

 although with sin defiled.

 The devil charges me in vain,

 and I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,

 my prophet, priest, and king,

 my Lord, my life, my way, my end,

 accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,

 how cold my warmest thought;

 but when I see thee as thou art,

 I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim

 with every fleeting breath;

 and may the music of thy name

 refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Worship Leader – Eric Rudningen

Musicians – Alison Nelson & Mariah Rudningen

Lector – Phyllis Meyer

Ushers – Scott and Jenell Mitteness

Acolytes – Rudningen Family

Greeter- Lee and Phyllis Meyer

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter)* Kathy Schol, Dennis Doering, Donna Baker, Wally and Phyllis Loven, Calvin Carls, Pastor Bill Miller

**Stewardship Snippet:**  **The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost , August 22, 2021**

**John 6:68 –** Simon Peter answered Jesus, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life."

*We hear so many voices in our culture luring us to follow by promising us prosperity, power, fun, escape, prestige, etc. But steward disciples know that only Jesus has the words of true life, eternal life. We listen only for Jesus’ words.*

*--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2021, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**Fellowship Hour:** Please join us for coffee and fellowship this morning in the parish hall following worship services.

**Sunday School:** The Board of Christian Education is actively seeking teachers for this year's Sunday School classes, which will begin on Sunday, Sept. 12th. Teachers will work in teams, have reasonably sized classes of combined grade levels, and teach with user-friendly, printed curriculum. You do not need to be a Bible expert, parent, or classroom teacher to get involved! All teachers will be invited to a teacher meeting prior to the start of Sunday School. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity and contact any board member to learn more.

**Confirmation Information:** Plans are in place for the beginning of Confirmation. Letters were mailed to parents of all confirmands on our current membership list. If you did not receive a letter or are interested in having your child attend KLC confirmation please contact the church office.

**Altar Guild:** The Altar Guild is in need or 2 additional people to work with another team member to prepare the sanctuary for worship each week. For more information contact Barb Norton: barb@theinwell.com or 320-894-2128. Thank you.

**Thank you:** KLC received the following thank you: Thank you for the money for Bible camp. I learned a lot about our Lord and made lots of new friends. Sincerely, Quinn Lottman.

**Meals on Wheels:** KLC is responsible for the local delivery of Meals on Wheels for the month of August. The meals arrive at KLC each Wednesday at 11:00 am. These are the meals for the entire week for each recipient and it takes approximately 1 hour to deliver them. We are still in need of someone to deliver on August 25. If you are able to do this please sign up on the sheet that is on the table between the office doors. Thank you.

**Next Sunday, August 29, 2021**: **The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

9:00 am Worship Service with Kristy Nystrom preaching.

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

**KLC Worship Services are also available for viewing on YouTube!**

**KLC Office Hours for the Week of August 23-27:** Church office hour will be Monday - Office closed, Tuesday - Thursday 9:00 – 3:00 pm. The church office is closed on Friday. If you have questions or need assistance please call: Ann Hanson – 320-894-4464.

**WELCA Quilting:** Quilting continues each Wednesday 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Masks and social distancing protocols will be followed. There will be a catered noon luncheon with a free will donation each week.

**Sunday Musicians:** Do you play the piano or organ? Would you be interested in helping to lead our congregation’s Sunday morning worship music? We are looking for musician to substitute on Sunday mornings when neither Alison nor Mariah are able to be here. KLC does pay $30 per service for leading worship. If you would like to be put on a list of people who would be interested in filling in when needed. Please let the church office know or contact a member of the KLC Board of Worship and Witness. Thank you.

**Let Us Know:** If you have a prayer request to be **added or removed** from the KLC prayer list, please notify the church office. kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com or 320-264-2823.

**Stay In Touch:** If you have not been receiving bulletins, newsletters or prayer requests and would like to, please contact the church office with your information. kerkhovenlutheran@gmail.com or 320-264-2823

**KLC Website:** We again have a website. It can be found at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/>

**On-Line Giving:** It is now possible to give your offering or a donation to KLC on-line at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> This link will now be available on our Kerkhoven Lutheran Facebook page and is available on our new website (see link above).

**At the Lake This Summer:** Supporting our summer ministries and mission is only a click away. We offer convenient online giving, so you never have to worry about not attending worship at home. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option if you will be traveling during the summer months. Get started by visiting our online donation page at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YNJM> or the KLC website at <https://www.kerkhovenlutheranchurch.com/> where you can keep up on all the news and events happening at KLC.

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**Kristin Stivers, Secretary Leif Carlson**

**Tom Baker, Liasion to Council Julia Carlson**

**Loretta Falk**

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# August 22, 2021John 6:56-69

*****Use this resource at home to guide your household’s daily devotions.*

**Pray:** Light a candle. Open your devotion with prayer.

**Almighty God, your work is not easy, but it is life-giving to the world and those who follow you. Keep us faithful to the journey we have begun in you, with our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

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**Read:** Read the key verses from Sunday’s reading.

***When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you?”*(John 6:60-61)**

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**Reflect:** Reflect on the scripture summary.

**Jesus indicated just how hard following him would be. Some were unwilling or unable to do so. But for those who did follow, the work would be absolute, offensive, dangerous, and wholly out of their control. But it would be worth it.**

**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household or community.

**What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?**

**Did you know that Jesus’ words were sometimes so offensive he lost followers? What has been said that makes you desire to leave a situation? How did it turn out?**

**For the littles: When you play follow-the-leader, do you prefer to lead or to follow?**

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

**May Jesus hold you close, even when his words are hard to hear. Amen.**

**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God’s word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

 **Stick it out. Consider something that you know is good for you, but you desire to quit. Take steps to get over the hurdle so that it can continue to be a blessing in your life. (Do not do this if that thing is harmful to you or others.)**

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**Go Deeper:** Go to **bit.ly/daily-devotions-rcl** for the daily readings!

Monday, Psalm 11; 1 Kings 5:13-18; Ephesians 5:21-6:9

Tuesday, Psalm 11; 1 Kings 6:1-14; Ephesians 6:21-24

Wednesday, Psalm 11; 1 Kings 6:15-38; John 15:16-25

Thursday, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Song of Solomon 1:1-17; James 1:1-8

Friday, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Song of Solomon 2:1-7; James 1:9-16

Saturday, Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9; Hosea 3:1-5; John 18:28-32