

...the  
SWORD  
of the  
SPIRIT,  
which is the  
WORD of GOD.



-Ephesians 6:17

First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Beardstown, Illinois  
Ministers: All of God's People  
Pastor Gary Sproat  
Worship Assistant TBD

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost  
10:30 a.m.

August 22, 2021

***Welcome Everyone! We are glad to have you with us today.***

**Restrooms are found** in the fellowship hall to the right as you enter the fellowship/gathering area.

**Prayer is an important part of life of our congregation.** Each week we attempt to gather your prayer concerns for inclusion in the prayers during worship. If you know of prayer concerns that should be included today, please add them to the Prayer Request Sheet located on the stand in the back of the church.

**Communion** – All baptized Christians who believe that the body and blood of Christ are present in this meal are invited to commune. The ushers will direct you forward. Extend your hands with your palms up to indicate you wish to receive. You may also come forward with your hands folded palms down to receive a blessing. If you desire grape juice instead of wine, please point to the tray to indicate that you desire grape juice. The wine is red and the grape juice is white.

*If you have any needs or any questions, please feel free to ask an usher, or any congregational member. You may also contact the church office at 217-323-1770.*

<b>Worship Participants</b>	<b>Today</b>	<b>August 29</b>
Pastor/SAM	Gary Sproat	Gary Sproat
Worship Assistant/Reader		Aileana Rawlins
Organist	Jill Roegge	Jill Roegge
Acolyte	Cami Coats	Brennan Ramsey
Ushers	Barb Hobrock Grace Hermetet	Jim Hermetet Mary Ella Hermetet
Chancel & Communion Prep	Sharon Large	Susan Rawlins
Video Recorder	Mylee Tracey	Cami Coats
Tellers	Ashlee Schlueter Debbie Wilcox	Ashlee Schlueter Grace Hermetet

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### INTRODUCTION

*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.*

### PREPARATION

The Prelude

Jill Roegge

(♠ Indicates to stand as you are able.)

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: 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.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage 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**

P: 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.

C: **Amen**

## **GATHERING**

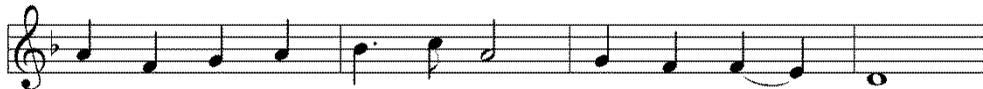
✧ **Opening Hymn – ELW (Red Book) 810 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”**

### ✧ **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**



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son:      **C** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*



**A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:      **C** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

### ✧ **Hymn of Praise**



**C** Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



**I** Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



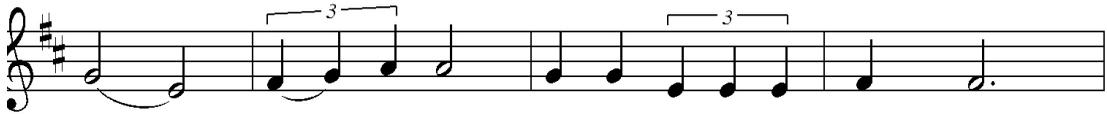
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



**C** Glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo- ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



**II** Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

II



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,



and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

## ✧ Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

A: Let us pray,

C: **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.**

*(Congregation may be seated.)*

## WORD

*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.*

R: A reading from Joshua:

**Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

<sup>1</sup>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>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>“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.”

R: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 34:15-22**



<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on 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 spir- | its are crushed.**

<sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.

<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.**

## **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.*

R: A reading from Ephesians:

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

<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.

R: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## ✧ Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## ✧ Announcement of the 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 more important questions: “To whom shall we go?”*

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

C: **Glory to you, O Lord**

<sup>56</sup>[Jesus said] “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.

P: The gospel of the Lord

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Congregation may be seated.)*

## Sermon

### Hymn Of The Day

✧ ELW (Red Book) 638 “Blessed Assurance”

### ✧ Apostles’ Creed

**C: 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 again 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 the Church

**A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs...**

**A: Lord, in your mercy,**

**C: hear our prayer.**

**A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**C: Amen**

### MEAL

#### ✧ Sharing of the Peace

**P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.**

**C: And also with you**

**A: Let us pray,**

**C: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

## ◇Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right our duty and our joy...we praise their name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end

of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

**C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

**C: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.



## ✧ Lord's Prayer

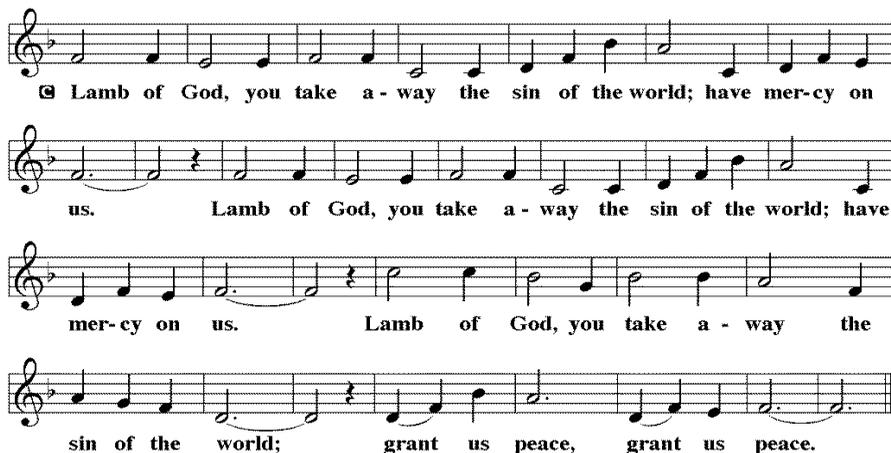
**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

*(Congregation may be seated.)*

## Communion

*All baptized Christians who believe that the body and blood of Christ are present in this meal are invited to commune. The ushers will direct you forward and you may kneel or stand. Extend your hands with your palms up to indicate you wish to receive. You may also come forward with your hands folded palms down to receive a blessing. If you desire grape juice instead of wine, please point to the tray to indicate that you desire grape juice. The wine is red and the grape juice is white.*

## Distribution Hymns



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

**ELW (Red Book) 480** “O Bread Of Life From Heaven”

**ELW (Red Book) 522** “As We Gather”

**ELW (Red Book) 595** “Jesus Loves Me”

✧ **Table Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen

✧ **Post Communion Canticle**



☞ Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry -  
one what God has done. Let all who seek the  
Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.  
Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and  
lead us forth in joy with shouts of thanks -  
giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

✧ **Post-Communion Prayer**

A: Let us pray. (*Response after the prayer*) C: Amen

**SENDING**

✧ **Benediction** (*Response after the prayer*) C: Amen

✧ **Closing Hymn - ELW (Red Book) 547** “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

✧ A: Go in peace, serve the Lord, C: **Thanks Be To God!**

**Postlude**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WEBSITE UPDATED/PHOTO ARCHIVE

Our website has undergone a much-needed update! Go to [firstlutheranbeardstown.org](http://firstlutheranbeardstown.org) to see the changes.

We would like to create a “photo archive” on the website. If you have any pictures you want to add, please bring them on a flash drive to the church office or email them to [frstluth@casscomm.com](mailto:frstluth@casscomm.com).

### WORSHIP PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

We are returning to our normal worship participant schedule. If you would like your name removed from our participant list, please contact Natalie in the church office.

We need worship participants. If you are willing to help, please check with the office to make sure that you are on the list.

Current worship participation lists were compiled using our 2019-2020 time and talent sheets. We are planning on sending out new time and talent sheets in 2022.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

We are searching for Sunday School teachers. Please reach out to the church office or Sara Brockschmidt if you would like to share your time and talent with the youth of our church.

### THOSE WE REMEMBER IN OUR

**WEEKLY PRAYERS: Those who are facing long-term illness or for whom we offer our weekly prayer support:** Alaria Bell, Joe Blakeman, Betsy Brown, Alayna Capps, Robert Coats, Robin Days, Ulinda Eilers, Gilbert Ellis, Gabby Galvan, Roger Hale, Sue Hale, Tari Hale, Wendell Harbin, Linda Hendricker, Dave Krohe, Leo Leonhard, Dick Piehler, Caitlyn Rous, Ethan Rous, Sherry Ross, Garry Shaw, Marge Shaw, David Thompson, Jennifer Wedeking, Rosemary White

**Those whose mobility is limited and whom we remember in prayer as a part of our community of worship: In Nursing Homes:** (Heritage South) Rob Cooper, Peg Rink (Rushville) Irene Lankin

**In the Military:** Makenna Brockman, Brian Collison, Levi Collison, Marcus Collison, Marcus Couch, Johnathon Fishel, Chad Hale, Benjamin Raney, Doug Ross, Jakob Stover, Courtney Thompson and Quentin Thompson

If you put someone on the above list and they no longer need our weekly prayers, please let us know so that we may remove their name. Also, please let us know if you would like to have someone added to the list.

### **Calendar for August 22-29**

**Sun. Aug. 22** – 9:00 a.m. Acolyte Training

**Sun. Aug. 22** – 10:30 a.m. Communion Service

**Sun. Aug. 29** – 9:00 a.m. Catechism Orientation

**Sun. Aug. 29** – 10:30 a.m. Communion Service

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