

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Words and Food of Eternal Life

August 15, 2021



As We Gather: Today we consider why we follow Jesus. In the Gospel, we see many people stop following Jesus because His words offend them. When Jesus asks the disciples if they want to stop following Him as well, Peter answers, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Not only does Jesus have the words of eternal life, but He also gives us the food of eternal life—His body and blood. As we gather for worship, we gather around God’s Word and God’s Meal—the Lord’s Supper.

✕ PREPARATION ✕

Opening hymn Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens #589



1 Speak, O Lord, Your ser - vant lis - tens, Let Your Word to
2 Oh, what bless - ing to be near You And to lis - ten
3 Lord, Your words are wa - ters liv - ing When my thirst - ing
4 As I pray, dear Je - sus, hear me; Let Your words in



me come near; New - born life and spir - it give me,
to Your voice; Let me ev - er love and hear You,
spir - it pleads. Lord, Your words are bread life - giv - ing;
me take root. May Your Spir - it e'er be near me



Let each prom - ise still my fear. Death's dread pow'r, its in - ward
Let Your Word be now my choice! Man - y hard - ened sin - ners,
On Your words my spir - it feeds. Lord, Your words will be my
That I bear a - bun - dant fruit. May I dai - ly sing Your



strife, Wars a - gainst Your Word of life; Fill me, Lord, with
Lord, Flee in ter - ror at Your Word; But to all who
light Through death's cold and drea - ry night; Yes, they are my
praise, From my heart glad an - thems raise, Till my high - est



love's strong fer - vor That I cling to You for - ev - er!
feel sin's bur - den You give words of peace and par - don.
sword pre - vail - ing And my cup of joy un - fail - ing!
praise is giv - en In the end - less joy of heav - en.

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Invocation

L In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

L The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

C **Insight is knowing the holy one and seeking justice.**

L The way of the Lord leads to eternal life.

C **The way of the world leads only to death.**

L Through His death and resurrection, Jesus opens the way of eternal life.

C **Jesus has given us the words of eternal life.**

L Jesus gives us the food of eternal life, His body and blood.

C **Come, let us listen to His words, walk His way, and delight in His food.**

Confession and Absolution

L Though Jesus has come down from the heavens as the bread of life for us, we sometimes listen to other people's words. We sometimes choose to follow those who do not follow Jesus. We sometimes delight in earthly pleasures rather than the daily bread God has given us. Yet, our heavenly Father calls us back to Him, for His way is a way of forgiveness.

Silence for reflection.

L Heavenly Father,
C **we have lived according to our own wisdom and desires. We have ignored Your words and wisdom. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us on the way of resurrection and eternal life, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

L In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:6; Philippians 1:6

C **Amen. We are forgiven. We have eternal life with Christ. Amen.**

✠ **WORD** ✠

Introit *Psalm 111:1–5, 9; antiphon: v. 10*

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever! Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation. Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.

He has caused his wondrous works to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he remembers his covenant forever. He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name!

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!

Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy*

**C Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn All People That on Earth Do Dwell #791 v. 1, 4-5



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy
△ 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom



Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the



praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

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Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

L Let us pray. Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18*

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. ²And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” ¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods, ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in 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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle *Ephesians 5:6–21*

⁶Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience.

⁷Therefore do not associate with them; ⁸for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel *John 6:51–69*

L The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

⁵¹[Jesus said:] “I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the

last day. ⁵⁵For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ⁵⁹Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

⁶⁰When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?” ⁶¹But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, “Do you take offense at this? ⁶²Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is of no avail. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. ⁶⁴But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) ⁶⁵And he said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father.”

⁶⁶After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. ⁶⁷So Jesus said to the Twelve, “Do you want to go away as well?” ⁶⁸Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, ⁶⁹and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.”

L This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Creed Apostles' Creed

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

And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

Sermon hymn In Thee Is Gladness #818



1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,
2 Since He is ours, _____ We fear no pow - ers, Not of



sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -



heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the



wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav'n re -



cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for



pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him



To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!
 And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

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Sermon *What's your choice? – Joshua 24:14-15*

Offering hymn Sent Forth by God's Blessing #643



1 Sent forth by God's bless-ing, Our true faith con - fess-ing,
 2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing To God ev - er - liv - ing,



The peo - ple of God from His dwell - ing take leave.
 The tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face.



The Sup - per is end - ed. O now be ex - tend - ed
 Our faith ev - er shar - ing, In love ev - er car - ing,



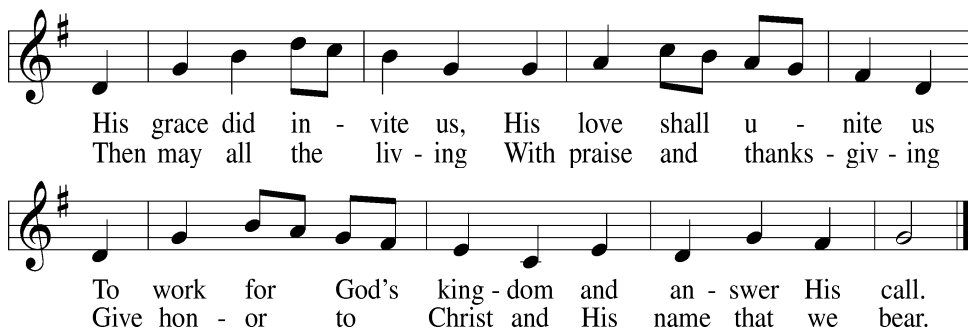
The fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
 Em - brac - ing His chil - dren of each tribe and race.



The seed of His teach - ing, Re - cep - tive souls reach - ing,
 With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;



Shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
 U - nite us as one in this life that we share.



His grace did in - vite us, His love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing With praise and thanks - giv - ing
To work for God's king - dom and an - swer His call.
Give hon - or to Christ and His name that we bear.

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Prayer of the Church

L Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, You descend from the heavens to feed Your people with the food of eternal life. As we follow You, help us to feed others both with earthly food and with heavenly food. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

C let me with holy food be fed.

L Lord, we bring before You all those who have stopped following You. We pray that You would soften their hearts and give us wisdom to share Your words of eternal life so that they might follow You again. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

C let me with holy food be fed.

L Lord, Your ways are not our ways. Your thoughts are not our thoughts. Help us not to seek our own way but to seek Your way and Your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

C let me with holy food be fed.

L Lord, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief,

[especially . . .]. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

C let me with holy food be fed.

L Lord, strengthen all those who struggle with addictions. Break their bondage and lead them to get the help they need. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

C let me with holy food be fed.

L Lord, aid all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they bring Your Word to Your people so that more and more people follow Your way. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

C let me with holy food be fed.

L Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [especially . . .]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

C let me with holy food be fed.

*Individual petitions may be added. The pastor and congregation will conclude each petition with: Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

L Lord Jesus, we commend all these things to Your infinite wisdom and guiding, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

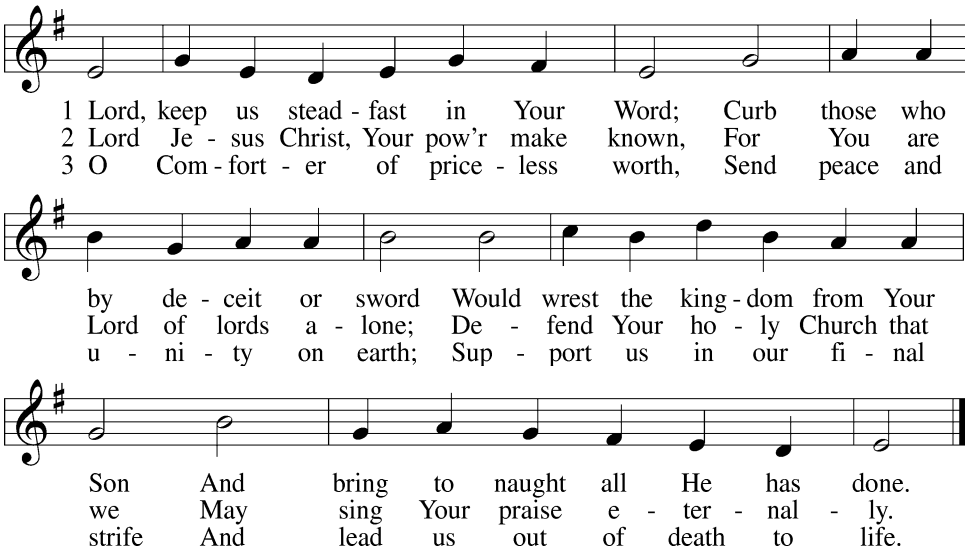
us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

L The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the Love of God
And the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

C Amen.

Closing hymn Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word #655



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

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Acknowledgments

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