

13th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, August 18, 2024
Pastor - Rev. John Rollefson
Organist/Music Director - Lori Free

Organ Prelude and Pastor's Greeting

Opening Hymn: **#767 (WOV) All Things Bright and Beautiful**

Order of Worship: pages 94-96, 147-150

Prayer of the Day - Celebrate

First Reading: Proverbs 9:1-6

Psalm: Psalm 34:9-14

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-20

Gospel: John 6:51-58

Response after the announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Response after the conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir"

Hymn of the Day: **All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir (see insert)**

Apostle's Creed: page 105 (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Prayers of Intercession - Celebrate

Offertory: Hymn 186 in Service Music - "Create in me..."

Words of Institution and Communion

Lord's Prayer (see inside back cover of hymnal)

Communion Hymn: **#480 O Bread of Life From Heaven**

Sending Song: **All Creatures of Our God and King(see insert)**

Dismissal

WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS
CELEBRATING OUR 142nd YEAR
IN HIS SERVICE
1882 - 2024

John Rollefson, a native of Oconomowoc is a farm boy brought up in a little Norwegian congregation that was founded in 1844. He is a graduate of Luther College and Yale Divinity School and has served urban and campus congregations in San Francisco, Milwaukee, Ann Arbor and Los Angeles with interims in Solvang and London. He is married to Ruth Gordon, a retired public school vocal music teacher and church musician, with whom he recently celebrated his 50th anniversary of marriage. They live in retirement in San Luis Obispo, CA where they enjoy tennis, golf, hiking, travel, wine tasting and concert-going. They are the parents of two sons: Griff, a professor of musicology who with his wife Mary and two children, Augie and Zadie, live in Cork, Ireland where he and Mary teach at University College, Cork; and Jake, a sales executive with Pandora/Sirius, who with his wife Julianne and two children George and Andrew, live in Shorewood, WI. Julianne has now graduated from her program in counseling at UW-Milwaukee and has opened a grief counseling practice.

We welcome all visitors worshipping with us today.

If you spend time in Door County please consider becoming a member of our special ministry. Contact any member for information.

All baptized Christians who celebrate the Real Presence in the Sacrament of Communion are invited to the Lord's Table.

Restrooms are located in the Pioneer School

**Visit us at BethanyEphraim.org,
and follow our worship service live, and archived,
on the web site.**

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation (*local agriculture may be named*). Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort (*especially*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 36. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153) Acts 7:9-16. **Wednesday** Genesis 47:13-26. **Thursday** Psalm 34:15-22. **Friday** Romans 13:11-14. **Saturday** (Bartholomew, Apostle) John 1:43-51. **14th Sunday after Pentecost** Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69.

CELEBRATE August 18, 2024 (Lectionary 20)

Volume 55, Number 3

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$5.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2024 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from New Revised Standard Version Bible with Apocrypha © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Kristina Langlois. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year B* (Augsburg Fortress, 2008). Please visit our Website at augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year B. 13 of 14
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Celebrate

Sunday, August 18, 2024
13th Sunday after Pentecost

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Prayer of the Day

Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

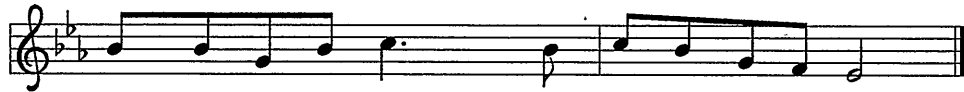
First Reading

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.
²She has slaughtered her animals,
she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.
³She has sent out her servant-girls,
she calls
from the highest places in the
town,

⁴"You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,
⁵"Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have
mixed.
⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."



Those who seek the LORD lack noth-ing that is good.

Fear the LORD, you saints ¹ of the LORD,
for those who fear the ¹ LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and ¹ suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing ¹ that is good. R**

¹¹Come, children, and lis- ¹ ten to me;
I will teach you reverence ¹ for the LORD.

¹²**Who among you takes plea- ¹ sure in life
and desires long life to en- ¹ joy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your ¹ tongue from evil
and your lips from ¹ lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil ¹ and do good;
seek peace ¹ and pursue it. R**

True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you

sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel

John 6:51-58

In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.

[Jesus said,] "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread 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, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have

eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those 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."