A central rectangular panel features a vibrant, textured painting. The artwork depicts two figures in profile, facing each other. The figure on the left is shown from the chest up, wearing a red garment, and holds a book with white pages and a purple cover. The figure on the right is shown from the chest up, wearing a green garment. The background of the painting is a mix of warm and cool colors, including yellow, orange, blue, and purple, with visible brushstrokes and a grainy texture. Overlaid on this painting is the text 'You have the words of eternal life' in a white, serif font. The text is arranged in three lines: 'You have the' on the top line, 'words of' on the second line, and 'eternal life' on the third line, which is significantly larger than the other two lines.

You have the
words of
eternal
life

JOHN 6:68



The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, August 21, 2021 5:00 pm
Sunday, 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

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.
Amen.

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"I Come with Joy"

vv. 1, 2 & 4



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

(Continued on the next page.)

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O 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

A reading from Ephesians.

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: John 6:56-69

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Jesus, I have Promised”

vv. 1 & 4



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
2 Oh, let me feel you near me; the world is ev - er near.
3 Oh, let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still
4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(Continued on the next page.)

re - main for - ev - er near me, my mas - ter and my friend.
 I see the sights that daz - zle, the tempt-ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will.
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 Now speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, then draw near - er to shield my soul from sin.
 now speak and make me lis - ten, O Guard-ian of my soul.
 oh, give me grace to fol - low, my mas - ter and my friend.

Text: John E. Bode, 1816–1874, alt.
 Music: MUNICH, *Neuermehrtes Gesangbuch*, Meiningen, 1693

BLESSING OF KEYS

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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING

We give thanks to God for the gifts that God provides, and for the gifts that you share with the church. Offerings to the church in these days may be placed in the box at the entrance or sent through the mail, through automatic withdraw, or through the [Tithe.ly](#) app on our website.

OFFERING SONG “Let the Vineyards”

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were

(Continued on the next page.)



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we

of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,

Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

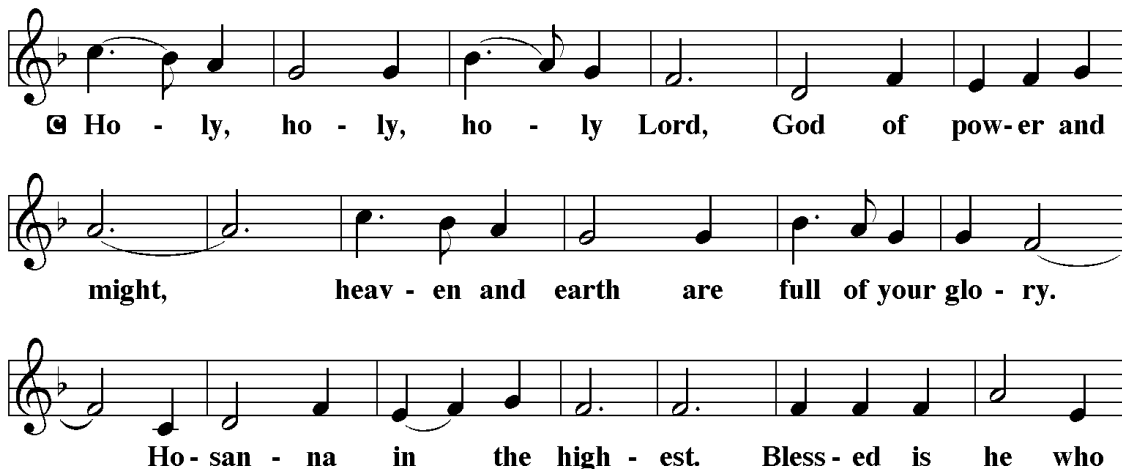
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your 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

(Continued on the next page.)

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.

THE 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION SONG

☞ 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.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion will receive a blessing.

Those worshiping with us at home may use their own bread and wine or juice for communion. On site, communion will be received at your seats. Having received the elements as you entered worship, you will take the chalice, and when directed by the pastor, you will remove the bottom cover to receive the bread. The pastor will say "Body of Christ given for you," and you will eat the bread. When directed by the pastor, you will remove the top cover to receive the wine or juice. The pastor will say, "Blood of Christ shed for you," and you will drink the wine or juice.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.
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.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.
Amen.

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ✚ be upon you now and forever.
Amen

SENDING SONG

“You Are the Way”

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The vocal line begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line consists of a series of chords: G2-B2-D3, A2-C3-E3, B2-D3-F3, and G2-B2-D3. The second system continues the vocal line with quarter notes D5, C5, B4, and A4. The bass line continues with chords: A2-C3-E3, B2-D3-F3, G2-B2-D3, and G2-B2-D3. The piece concludes with a final chord of G2-B2-D3.

1 You are the way; to you a - lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a - lone true wis - dom can im - part;
3 You are the life; the rend - ing tomb pro - claims your con - qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,

all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on - ly can in - form the mind and pu - ri - fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e - ter - nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

Arnie Lindaman

Carol Judge

Michelle Weltzin-
Trainor

Ron McFate

Kristina Gehrls

Nancy Meyer

Karen Rathjen

H.O. Nelson

Ed Stoltz

Tim Winter

Pat Hoffman

June Dierks

Ann Kuehl

Jensen Spencer

Michael Schafer

Karen Muetzel

Peyton Langebartles

Sherri Westmeier

Meyer Mixdorf

Bob Morehead

Joe Schwarz

Patty Mixdorf

Joan Nelson

Bonnie Zarske

Craig

Lois

Bob

Algean

Carolyn

John

Mary

Bonnie



Announcements

Flowers



Flowers on the altar are given by the Garner family In celebration of Mike and Lisa Garner's 30th anniversary and Joleen and Jason Newman's 25th anniversary.

If you are interested in providing altar flowers, there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex. You may also sign up by calling the church office, or online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-altar>

Backpack Blessing and Blessing of Teachers and School Workers

This weekend, **August 21 and 22**, we invite all children and youth who are starting back to school to bring their backpacks to worship at 5:00 pm on Saturday or 9:00 am on Sunday. During the Children's message, we will do a blessing of backpacks to pray God's blessing on the backpacks and on the children who will wear them this year. We will then offer a blessing over the teachers, administrators, bus drivers, janitors, kitchen staff and others as they prepare to head back to school.



Grade Faith Milestone: Blessing of the Keys

As our children begin high school, there are many milestones that they will begin to come across. One of those milestones is learning to drive, from getting the permit to driver's ed to getting a license. We would like to help these youth and parents to mark that milestone in worship with a "Blessing of the Keys". This weekend, **August 21 and 22**, during the worship services, we will invite all 9th and 10th graders to come forward with their parents as we pray over them and provide them with a small token to mark this time in their lives. We will also be providing each family with a sample "contract" which can help families to have conversation around proper use of the car.

A New Year for Confirmation



It is time to begin our Confirmation Conversations again, so it is time to have a **mandatory student/parent meeting and pizza party**. Therefore, all 7th and 8th Graders and their parents and siblings are invited to a pizza party and Confirmation kick-off meeting on **Wednesday, August 25, at 5:45 pm**. At this meeting we will go over expectations and opportunities for the year as well as the calendar of events. Please let Pastor Carrie know how many from your family will be coming so that we can be sure to have enough food for everyone at pastorcarrie@costeldridge.com or 285-4501 **by tomorrow, Monday, August 23**. We look forward to seeing you there.

P.S. Our first week of the regular class schedule will be the following **Wednesday, September 1**, beginning with a meal at 5:00 pm and our Confirmation Conversations from 5:30-6:45 pm.

High School Youth Group Kick-off



It is hard to believe that we are heading back into the school year, but as we do, we also head into a new year of Youth Group. In order to get the year kicked off, we invite all high school youth and their parents to join us for a conversation about plans for the year, including how often we would like to meet, the kinds of activities we would like to do, the 2022 Youth Gathering, and possible mission activities. We will meet on **Wednesday, August 25, at 7pm. A dessert will be provided!**

Please call the office at 285-4501, or sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805094EABA62CAAF85-confirmation1>,

by Monday, August 23. We encourage you to invite friends. More information will be coming in a letter soon. See you there!



Sunday School Rally Day is September 12!

Join us at 9am for pancakes and fun!

Check the September Ambassador for more info.