

Pentecost 13

August 18, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 15 (Year B)

Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism in 1529, “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and preserved me in the true faith.” The Scriptures for today emphasize the point between which the Spirit calls us and our hearts obey.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18 Whom Will You Serve?

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to renew the covenant at Shechem. They remembered all God had done from the time he called Abram from far away. Each phase of the journey was recalled, remembering the faithfulness of the living God. Joshua called the people to choose the God they would serve in this new land.

Psalm 34:12–22 Turn From Evil and Do Good

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, the psalmist wrote, but he turns his face from evildoers. The Lord delivers those who take refuge in him.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:6–21 Be Wise and Give Thanks

Paul instructed the Ephesian Christians to treat others as they would the Lord. Children are to obey their parents so that they receive the promise of long life in the land of God. Fathers are called to discipline their children so that they may know the Lord. Servants are charged with obedience as if they were serving the Lord himself. Walk as children of light, Paul said, because that’s what you are.

Gospel Reading: John 6:51–69 The Living Bread from Heaven

Jesus continued his discourse on being the bread of life, saying, “I am the living bread that came down from heaven.” All who eat this bread, which is Jesus’ flesh, will live forever. Jesus gave himself for the life of the world God loves. For some who heard him, Jesus’ words were far too difficult to believe. Many walked away, but the twelve remained with him.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise
- Use the Apostles’ Creed
- Faith hears the promises of God. Martin Luther once wrote, “Only faith apprehends the promise, believes the assurance God gives, and extends the hand to accept what God is offering.” Without faith we have no real idea what God is even offering us. So it was when Jesus explained that he is the Living Bread from Heaven. Many could not grasp the depth of what he was offering them, so they walked away — leaving the bread on the table, so to speak.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service	423	---	848	712	---	---
Break (Thou) Now the Bread of Life	235	---	---	515	85	85
God of Grace, God of Glory	415	---	850	705	---	---
We Praise You, O God	241	---	785	870	35	35
Come Let Us Eat	214	---	626	491	---	---
Will You Come and Follow Me	---	---	---	798	---	---
He Leadeth Me	501	---	---	---	232	232
Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways	480	---	707	772	235	235
Sunshine and Rain	---	---	---	---	37	37
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	198	---	621	490	80	80

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

- Praise Song Titles:
- Yes I Will (CCLI# 7105442)
 - No Other (CCLI# 7093250)
 - Jesus Saves (CCLI# 5322950)
 - More Like Jesus (CCLI# 7105732)
 - Goodness of God (CCLI# 7117726)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.