

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

Clearwater, Florida
727-462-8000

Lengthening and Strengthening the Kingdom

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2009

The Prelude..... *Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices - arr. Herbert Paulmichl*

The Welcome

▲ The Opening Hymn Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices - TLH # 30

The Call to Worship

Pastor: We gather in the name of our God the Father, Son †, and the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Lord, You are our gracious host, inviting us to Your table to eat and drink, and experience new life. Help us to continue to accept Your invitation.

People: You invite us not only to eat with You but to follow You into ministry. Fill our empty and unwilling flesh with the life of Your Spirit.

Pastor: Thank You, Lord, for the tangible gifts You continue to provide - life, health, food and drink. Through Your Spirit, help us also to continue to trust, even when we cannot touch, taste and see.

People: Feed us, so that we might reach out into the world with the words of eternal life. Use us to invite others to follow You.

Pastor: Bread of Life, "to whom shall we go?" You have the words of eternal life.

People: Lord, without Your Spirit, we're empty flesh. We grasp for what we can touch and see. You call us to have faith, to trust in the midst of uncertainty and boldly follow You as faithful disciples but we doubt or fall away. We are full of sin. Have mercy on us. Forgive us. Bring us back to You. Fill our emptiness with Your bread. Help us to hold on to You in faith and trust to the words of eternal life.

Pastor: Our Lord does have the words of eternal life, and these words are full of mercy and forgiveness. He hears our cry and rescues us from all our troubles. The LORD is near to those whose hearts are humble. He saves those whose spirits are crushed. The LORD rescues us from all our troubles. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

People: Lord, You have the words of eternal life. Amen.

✓ The Children's Message

The Old Testament Lesson Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 (GWT)

Joshua Calls All Israel to Serve the Lord

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem. He called together Israel's leaders, chiefs, judges, and officers, and they presented themselves to God. Joshua said to all the people, "Fear the LORD, and serve him with integrity and faithfulness. Get rid of the gods your ancestors served on the other side of the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve only the LORD.

But if you don't want to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Even if you choose the gods your ancestors served on the other side of the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: Lord, teach us to serve You alone.

whose land you live, my family and I will still serve the LORD." The people responded, "It would be unthinkable for us to abandon the LORD to serve other gods. The LORD our God brought us and our ancestors out of slavery in Egypt. He did these spectacular signs right before our eyes. He guarded us wherever we went, especially as we passed through other nations. The LORD forced out all the people ahead of us, including the Amorites who lived in this land. We, too, will serve the LORD, because he is our God."

The New Testament Lesson Ephesians 5:6-21 (GWT)

Be Filled with the Spirit

Don't let anyone deceive you with meaningless words. It is because of sins like these that God's anger comes to those who refuse to obey him. Don't be partners with them. Once you lived in the dark, but now the Lord has filled you with light. Live as children who have light. Light produces everything that is good, that has God's approval, and that is true. Determine which things please the Lord. Have nothing to do with the useless works that darkness produces. Instead, expose them for what they are. It is shameful to talk about what some people do in secret. Light exposes the true character of

everything because light makes everything easy to see. That's why it says: "Wake up, sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." So then, be very careful how you live. Don't live like foolish people but like wise people. Make the most of your opportunities because these are evil days. So don't be foolish, but understand what the Lord wants. Don't get drunk on wine, which leads to wild living. Instead, be filled with the Spirit by reciting psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs for your own good. Sing and make music to the Lord with your hearts. Always

thank God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Place yourselves under each other's authority out of respect for Christ.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord!

People: **Thank You for giving us Your light.**

▲ The Triple Halleluiah TLH - page 10

All: ***Halleluiah! Halleluiah! Halleluiah!***

The Gospel Lesson John 6:51–69 (GWT)

Jesus is the Bread of Eternal Life

I am the living bread that came from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. The bread I will give to bring life to the world is my flesh." The Jews began to quarrel with each other. They said, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus told them, "I can guarantee this truth: If you don't eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you don't have the source of life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will bring them back to

life on the last day. My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood live in me, and I live in them. The Father who has life sent me, and I live because of the Father. So those who feed on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came from heaven. It is not like the bread your ancestors ate. They eventually died. Those who eat this bread will live forever." Jesus said this while he was teaching in a synagogue in Capernaum.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord!

People: **Thank You for being our Bread.**

The Confession of Faith Luther's Explanation of the 1st Article

All: **I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason, and all my senses, and still takes care of them.**

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil; All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all this it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

▼ The Hymn of the Day What Is This Bread? - HS # 850

The Sermon

The Offering is Gathered

The Voluntary *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart* - arr. Melvin Rotermund

▲ The Prayers and Lord’s Prayer

All: **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.**



The Words of Institution

▼ The Distribution of Holy Communion

*Please note: If you commune with individual cup, please hold your cup in your hand,
so it is obvious to Pastor that you have already been served.*

The Hymn Lord Jesus Christ, Thou hast Prepared - TLH # 306

The Announcements

▲ The Benediction

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you ...† ... and give you His peace.
People: **Amen**

The Closing Hymn O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee - TLH # 309

The Postlude *Processional* - Arnold Sherman