

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth  
Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Rev. Gerry Gallant

The Flesh and Blood of Jesus Christ  
Fourth Sunday of Easter  
John 6:47-71

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Along with all those in heaven, let us cry out together:

**Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!**

Along with the redeemed, let us praise God with joyful hearts:

**For this reason, we come before the throne of God and worship the Lord day and night.**

Called together by the Holy Spirit, let us rejoice and sing:

**We will hunger and thirst no more. The Lamb will guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**Let us worship God!**

**Prayer of Adoration and Invocation**

God of the ages, God of today,

You are compassion, our cup overflows.

You are hope; you lead us into green pastures.

You are truth; you lead us beside quiet streams.

You are life; you restore our souls.

Morning, noon and night, O God, you are the source of our joy.

We gather to worship you as one family of your people,  
honoring you as our Creator,

trusting you as our Savior,

celebrating you as the Spirit who gives us life. **Amen.**

**Children's Video**

**Call to Confession**

Prepare the way of the Lord!

Let us make our confession to God.

**Prayer of Confession**

Righteous Father,  
 we who own more than we use,  
 proclaim more than we experience,  
 and request more than we need,  
 come asking your forgiveness.  
 We seek your salvation, then act like we save ourselves.  
 We beg your forgiveness, then repeat our errors.  
 We experience your grace, then act defeated.  
 We rely on your power, but only in hard times.  
 We have become confused and misguided.  
 Forgive our every defection.  
 Bring us to an unbroken commitment  
 and a steady trust,  
 through Jesus Christ, who is the way of hope,  
 the truth of God,  
 and the life of love,  
 now and always. Amen.

#### **Assurance of Pardon**

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:  
 While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.  
 Since we have now been justified by his blood,  
 how much more shall we be saved  
 from God's wrath through him!

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one  
 For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
 Forever and ever. Amen.

#### **Hymn: "Psalm 8"**

When I look at your heavens  
 The moon and stars you set in motion, oh God  
 I sing all glory and honor  
 What is man that you are mindful?  
 The son of man that you would care for him?  
 We sing all glory and honor

(Chorus)  
 Oh Lord, our Lord  
 Oh, how awesome are Your ways  
 How majestic is your name in all the earth  
 Oh Lord, our Lord  
 May we see Your kingdom come  
 Father, may Your will be done in all the earth

In all the earth  
 You gave dominion to your children  
 And You crowned them, oh God  
 With glory and honor  
 So we'll sing of Your name  
 Live our lives for Your greatness, oh God  
 And Your glory and honor. (Chorus)

### **Responsive Reading**

#### **Psalm 23:1-6**

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

**He leads me beside still waters.**

3 He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness  
 for his name's sake.

**4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,**

**I will fear no evil,**

**for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff,**

**they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me  
 in the presence of my enemies;  
 you anoint my head with oil;  
 my cup overflows.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me**

**all the days of my life,**

**and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
 forever.**

**Anthem (Music Ministry): "The Blessings Riddle"**

## Prayer for Illumination

### Scripture

#### John 6:47-71

<sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life.

<sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> 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."

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> So 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. <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

<sup>55</sup> For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me.

<sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But 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.) <sup>65</sup> And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." <sup>71</sup> He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.

### Sermon

We start today in the middle of a sermon that Jesus Christ was giving to those who had gathered in a synagogue in Capernaum. Capernaum was the base of Jesus's ministry so it would not be uncommon for him to speak in the synagogue. Last week we looked at about half of his message about being the Bread of Life and how Jesus was emphasizing that the people who were following him and the religious leaders which had come to confront him, all had it wrong. How they were focused on the things of this world and not on the spiritual. We ended last week with Jesus emphasizing to the crowd that he was the Son of God, and that it is only by believing

in him, loving, and trusting in him, that eternal life could be found. And we start today as he continues that thought.

**John 6:47-51**

**<sup>47</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> 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."**

Jesus continues on with this concept of the bread, carrying on the metaphor that was related to the sign of the feeding on the other side of the sea just one day prior. He once again clearly states that any who believe in him has an eternal life.

Remember that when Jesus says believe in me, he is speaking of much more than simple belief. In the modern world, many Christians have simplified this idea of believing in Jesus as simply acknowledging his existence, to intellectually believe. However, the Biblical meaning of this word believe goes much deeper than intellectual knowledge. Believe in the Bible means to love and trust in Jesus, to have a personal relationship with him.

Jesus says if you can do that, if you can simply believe in him, you will be granted eternal life. Think of how shocking this must have been to the crowd that was gathered there in the synagogue. A man that they knew was telling them, that as long as they believed in him, they would have eternal life, many of them were probably thinking, 'of course we believe in you, you are standing right there!' Even then, they misunderstood what believing in Christ meant.

Their idea of Jesus claiming that a personal relationship based on Love and Trust would grant eternal life would seem absurd to most, after all none of God's other prophets had ever made such a claim. Isaiah would never have made such a claim, King David never made such a claim, even John the Baptist, whom Jesus himself said was the greatest of all the prophets could never say such a thing.

Yet here in Capernaum on that day, Jesus Christ made that claim to this crowd, 'I am not only the Son of God, I am God the Son.' And if you believe in me, you will have eternal life.

He repeats himself over and over in this sermon, 'I am the bread of life.'

Do you know what the first rule of teaching is? Repetition, the second rule of teaching is repetition, the third rule of teaching is repetition. In the military they say it this way. Tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them what you tell them and then tell them what you told them.

Jesus is repeating this idea of being the bread of life over and over. He is trying to teach them something that is vital for their life. Just like bread is a necessary component of their physical survival, Jesus is necessary for their spiritual and eternal life.

Jesus chose this metaphor for a reason. Bread was a primary component of the diet of the people of that time and place. Every meal had bread of some kind. Often a shared bowl would be in the center of the table and people would use pieces of bread to scoop out of the bowl and eat, like chips and dip. And if you have no chip, you have no dip. So, bread was necessary for life, it was the staple, the cornerstone of their diet.

If Jesus had been born in China he might have said he was the rice of life, if he had been born in Italy the pasta of life, if he had been born in Ireland, he would have been the potato of life.

Jesus is making a clear point. Just like you need bread to live, you need him to live. If you do not have food you will die, we need food not only to survive but to have the strength and endurance to do things in this world. Jesus is saying that just like food you need him, you need Jesus to survive, to have the strength and endurance to do things in the spiritual world.

Jesus repeats once again for the crowd that he is the bread that has come down from heaven. A spiritual bread, a living bread, a bread that has come to satisfy the spiritual hunger of God's people, the same way physical bread of the world satisfies a man's desire for food.

Jesus is using a metaphor that is simple for anyone to understand. One that should be crystal clear to those whom he had fed just a day prior with a few small crackers and a couple little fish.

He is saying everybody needs to eat something to survive. Everybody needs to eat something to live. Something; bread, rice, potatoes, pasta, meat, vegetables. If you want to live you MUST eat something.

The same is true of our spiritual life. Something needs to be there to sustain our spiritual life. For some people it is a drive to succeed, for others it might be power, for some it could be education, for some it is the number of likes and followers they have on social media, their fame. Everyone has something that sustains their spirit. And Jesus is saying I am the one thing that is needed to sustain your spirit for all of eternity.

Jesus chose the metaphor of food for that day and time and it makes just as much sense in today's world. You need to eat to survive in the world still today. And unlike in Jesus's day there are many more food choices available to people. Perhaps the most basic level of our choice today is to eat healthy food or not so healthy food. You can eat good healthy food, or you can eat what most of us eat week to week, the junk food of our life.

The truth is that you could eat junk food every day in this world and you would survive. Your diet could consist of chips, cookies, and donuts. However, at some point that diet will no longer sustain you. At some point you will become sick because you lack the nutrients that your body

needs to continue. If you live on junk food at some point, your body will fail you and you will die.

Jesus is saying, you have to think about what you eat. In the spiritual world you need to eat bread from heaven, not fast food, not the junk foods that are widely available in this world. When you believe in Jesus Christ you are eating the healthy foods of the spiritual world. When you believe in Jesus it is the same as eating your meat, fruit, and vegetables in this world.

Jesus is the perfect food for our spiritual life. And he tells the gathered people that his flesh is the bread which he will give for the world.

When did Jesus do that, when did he give his flesh for the world? When he hung on the cross. He is telling the crowd of what is to come, even though they are completely unaware at this point. He will die, for their spiritual life.

He is driving home the point of the truth that they are following him for the wrong reasons. The core of his message is that believing in him is critical for spiritual health. His sacrifice is the key to eternal life. Not the healings, not the miracles, not the moral examples. All of the good things that Jesus did on earth makes him a good person, but it is only his death upon the cross and his resurrection that makes him the Son of God. He tells the crowd that if you are following him because of miracles, the healing or moral examples, but you do not believe in him as Lord and Savior in the depths of your heart, you are following him for the wrong reasons.

Jesus Christ crucified, should be the central message of the gospel, his life laid down for the world. Believe in him and have eternal life. Receive him as spiritual bread.

If he is just a great moral teacher, if he is just a prophet, if he is just a great man who loved all, it is not the same as receiving him as a personal Savior, our God who died upon the cross for MY sins.

This is just too much for some of those gathered.

### **John 6:52**

**<sup>52</sup>The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat**

Even though we can see how plainly Jesus is speaking, How he is speaking of spiritual things, someone in the crowd decides to misunderstand him and ridicule him for his metaphor. Nobody that was there would have thought that Jesus was saying come on up and take a bite of my arm, a nibble of my shoulder or a hunk of my calf and live forever.

The metaphor that Jesus was using could even be understood in rabbinic or Old Testament ways of thinking. Yet someone in the crowd, intentionally and purposely took the words of Jesus

Christ and twisted them. Someone knew what he said, knew what he meant and still decided to twist it to say what they wanted.

When that happens to us, we usually slow down and try to clarify, we try to change what we said to something that they can understand. Notice what Jesus does, because it is important for us to know as Christians.

### **John 6:53**

**<sup>53</sup> So 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.**

He does not back down, he does not try to explain, he does not soften his message to make it more acceptable. Instead, he doubles down on his message. He tells them that they not only need to eat his flesh but also need to drink his blood.

This would have been shocking and honestly revolting to the Jews gathered in the synagogue listening to Jesus. According to Jewish food laws, all blood must be completely drained from a piece of flesh before it could be eaten. Blood was considered dirty, unholy and it should never come in contact with voluntarily.

Yet Jesus is once again speaking to the Jews in a context that they could understand if they listened. He says his flesh and blood are necessary for spiritual life. Where was flesh and blood spoken of in the Jewish Scriptures. Everyone’s favorite put you to sleep Scripture, the book of Leviticus. The book that talks in great detail of the flesh and blood that needs to be sacrificed for the various sins of mankind.

Jesus is speaking plainly, and they could understand him easily, if they listened. He tells them the same thing; It is my sacrifice that needs to be the focus of your belief.

The modern church needs to take a lesson from Jesus Christ here. He did not back off, he did not try to make his message more acceptable to those gathered, he did not soften his message or modify it so that people would stay and listen. He amped it up, he doubled down and just told them the truth of the necessity of belief in him for the right reasons was their key to eternal life.

### **John 6:54-59**

**<sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. <sup>57</sup> As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.**



Jesus does not tell them; I am sorry I offended you by speaking of flesh and blood. Instead, he says that his flesh and his blood are the only ways to eternal life. My sacrificed life is food and drink for the hungry soul.

If you are hungry in your spirit, there is only one food that will fill you up for eternity, and you need to choose. Will you feed on the spiritual junk foods of this world or the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ and be satisfied for eternity? Will you try to satisfy your spiritual life with junk like fame, power, wealth or perhaps with something that is a little more poisonous like pleasure, drugs, alcohol, gambling? All things which will temporarily give you some satisfaction will sustain you for a while but eventually will fail you. Will you die because you choose to continue to consume the wrong things or will you consume the spiritual sacrifice of Jesus Christ and have eternal life?

That statement was just as offensive to the Jews of that day as it is to many people today. And yet Jesus Christ, never hesitated to deliver this message in the church of that day. When people misunderstood him, when people twisted his words, when people took offense, he did not back down and softened his message, he proclaimed it louder. The sacrifice of flesh and blood, the death of Jesus Christ upon the cross is the key to eternal life.

And you must receive that sacrifice upon the cross, you must believe in that sacrifice on the cross to receive eternal life.

And food is the perfect metaphor for this idea.

Think about it. Everybody must eat for themselves; even an infant must eat on their own; we can prepare the meal for others, but we cannot eat for them. I cannot ask my children to eat healthy food while I focus my diet on desserts and receive the nutrients I need because they are eaten by my children for me.

Everybody must have a personal relationship with Jesus. They must come to the cross themselves, eat of the flesh and blood themselves; no one can do it for them.

To build upon that the food must be eaten. It must be incorporated, internalized, and brought into yourself. The same has to happen with your belief in Jesus Christ, it must be internalized, personal.

The same way that the food we eat becomes part of our physical body, the spiritual food we eat becomes part of our spiritual body. You are what you eat after all and that is even more of a truth spiritually than it is physically.

Jesus is saying: look at my broken flesh upon the cross, look at my blood poured out for the sins of the world, make that your food and drink in the spiritual world. Any who feed upon his sacrifice will have eternal life, not because they earned it, not because of anything that said or did, but because Jesus Christ freely gave it upon the cross.

Again, the food metaphor fits perfectly here. Many people in this world would be happy to feast on the sacrifice that Jesus made, as long as they could modify the meal. As long as they can pick and choose the ingredients, as long as they can leave out those things which they do not want to be part of the sacrifice, those sins which they do not like to call sins.

However, Jesus is the one who prepared our spiritual meal, his sacrifice upon the cross is there ready for any who will partake in it, and all anyone needs to do is believe and they will have eternal life. It is so simple, take it and eat it.

Jesus is saying to you: take and eat, but you eat what I bring to you: my word, my way; you take all of it or you take none of it.

However, if you take it, all of it, you will have eternal life. You have to take it and eat it.

Just like a loaf of bread, you must eat the bread to get the benefits of the bread. You cannot feed yourself by looking at a loaf of bread, or by smelling a loaf of bread, by taking pictures of a loaf of bread, by knowing the ingredients or even how to bake a loaf of bread, you do not get the benefits of a loaf of bread by selling bread, telling others about bread, playing with bread.

There is only one way to get the health benefits of a loaf of bread by eating it and allowing it to become part of your body, you are what you eat, physically and spiritually.

Every spiritual mouthful of Jesus Christ you ingest is an act of faith. You need to assimilate Jesus Christ into your life to have eternal life. Jesus invites everyone who is spiritually hungry and spiritually thirsty to a free meal which he will provide, all they need to do is partake.

Yet even this is too much for many.

#### **John 6:60**

**<sup>60</sup> When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?"**

When John uses the term disciples here, he is not speaking of the 12 followers of Jesus Christ. He is speaking of those who had followed him around the sea of Galilee to be fed on the plateaus and then returned with him to Capernaum. He is speaking of the ten to twenty thousand people who were following Jesus Christ, and, in this group, many were saying 'who can listen to it', in some translations it will say 'who can understand it'.

However, when we go back to the original Greek it says something closer to who can accept it. They understood what Jesus was saying, but they refused to accept it. They understood that he was saying that he was the only way for them to find spiritual satisfaction. They understood that he was saying pursuing the things of this world to try to feed yourself spiritually was pointless,

that the only way that they would find spiritual life was through him. They understood it but they could not accept it.

As a servant of God this speaks to me on so many levels. My job is to help you understand the Word of God and then plead with you to accept it into your lives. I cannot make you accept it, I cannot accept it for you, the acceptance of the Word of God is personal, it is between you and God. However, I have a duty and responsibility to present the Word of God as simply and as clearly as possible so you can understand it, and it is not complicated, and it is repetitive, so at some point everyone understands it. And then I have to leave it to you individually to decide what to do with it.

And here on this day in Capernaum, Jesus repeated himself over and over until they understood, and still people chose to not accept what he said.

#### **John 6:61-64**

**<sup>61</sup> But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But 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.)**

Jesus confronts them, he asks them if they are offended, and he does not change a word of his speech. He does not soften the message, he does not cater to the crowd, instead he says if that offends you wait until you see that I am speaking the truth.

Jesus knew that people would be offended by his message, he knew that there would be people who understood his message and would reject it. He knew that people would choose the world. And he tells them you are offended by my words today, and someday after I have ascended to heaven, and come back in my judgement, I will be offended by you standing in my presence.

It is better to be offended by the Word of God in the world today and to wrestle with accepting it in our lives, than to be standing before a God you have offended on the Day of Judgement.

The Gospel is offensive, the Word of God is offensive, it calls for us to change, it calls for us to live differently, it calls for us to make sacrifices of the things we like, the sins we love, the life we live. But it is better to be offended a million times here on earth and learn to accept those offenses, learn to change the way we live, learn to sacrifice our sins, through the work of the Holy Spirit than it is to not accept the truth of who Jesus Christ, to not have a personal relationship with him based on Love and Trust, and stand before him on Judgement Day.

#### **John 6:65-66**

**<sup>65</sup> And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."**

**<sup>66</sup> After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him**

As Christians there are two important things for us to learn in these verses. When Jesus saw that people turned away from him, he said 'I know that you cannot come to me unless the father has drawn you to me'.

A reminder that people will always choose the world, the free money and free food over eternal life and spiritual fulfillment. It is human nature, and we should never be surprised by this fact.

The second is that when many people walked away from him, he did not go chasing after them, he did not soften his message, he did not change who he was. When the people walked away from him and his message, he watched them go.

Jesus did not need the multitudes, he did not need the masses, he did not change his message, his word, his requirements so that more people could follow him. This is a message that the modern Christian needs to accept into their own ministry. We do not conform to the world to make people happy, we tell the truths of the Gospel and if people walk away, we let them and we pray for them.

Jesus does not chase after those who left, instead he turned to those who stayed.

**John 6:67-71**

**<sup>67</sup> So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, <sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." <sup>70</sup> Jesus answered them, "Did I not choose you, the twelve? And yet one of you is a devil." <sup>71</sup> He spoke of Judas the son of Simon Iscariot, for he, one of the twelve, was going to betray him.**

Jesus asked this question in a way that assumed that they would stay. He gave them the option of leaving and they chose to stay.

Simon Peter speaks for the twelve, he was probably a little disheartened, they had just had a crowd of ten to twenty thousand people following them. People who seemed hungry to be followers of Jesus Christ. Then when Jesus told them the truth of what they needed to do they walked away and that crowd of thousands was down to the same twelve he started out with. Yet Simon Peter, acknowledges that Jesus is Lord, that he is the one who sets the rules, he is the one and only way to eternal life.

However, make note of this people of God, there is still one in the twelve who is not a true believer. One who is still following for the wrong reasons, one who sits in this inner core of the truly faithful who will betray Jesus.

Even in the church today, as the masses of this world walk away from God, there will still be some in the church who will betray God in the end, people who feign their belief. So, when we

see hypocrites in the church, when we see false believers, when we see people walk away from God, we do not need to chase them, we do not need to chase them out, instead we need to focus on what Simon Peter said and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, to partake in his flesh and blood on a personal level and walk as the Salt and Light of his Word in this dark and broken world.

Let us Pray,

**By Your Word You Have Brought Us out of Darkness**

Lord God, heavenly Father,  
we most heartily thank you  
that by your Word  
you have brought us out of the darkness of error  
into the light of your grace.  
Mercifully help us to walk in that light,  
guard us from all error and false doctrine  
and grant that we may not become ungrateful  
and despise and persecute your Word,  
as your people did long ago,  
but receive it with all our heart,  
govern our lives according to it  
and put all our trust in your grace  
through the merit of your dear Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one true God, now and forever.

***Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Trinity 25 / Reformation***

**Hymn #466: "Praise the Lord With the Sound of Trumpet"**

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet, praise the Lord  
with the harp and lute, praise the Lord with the gentle  
sounding flute. Praise the Lord in the field and forest, Praise  
the Lord in the city square, Praise the Lord anytime and  
anywhere. Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine, Praise the  
Lord in the dark of night, Praise the Lord in the rain or snow,  
or in the morning light. Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,  
Praise the Lord on the highest hill, Praise the Lord; never let  
your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal, praise the Lord with  
the pipe and string, praise the Lord with the joyful songs you

sing. Praise the Lord on a weekday morning, praise the Lord on a Sunday noon, praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon. Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow, praise the Lord in the time of joy, praise the Lord every moment; nothing let your praise destroy. Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet, praise the Lord in your work and play, praise the Lord everywhere in everyway.

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **Offering Prayer**

#### **Closing Hymn #571: "Lord, I Want to Be a Christian"**

Lord, I want to be a Christian  
ina my heart, ina my heart;  
Lord, I want to be a Christian ina my heart.  
Ina my heart, ina my heart,  
Lord, I want to be a Christian ina my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving  
ina my heart, ina my heart;  
Lord, I want to be more loving ina my heart.  
Ina my heart, ina my heart,  
Lord, I want to be more loving ina my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus  
ina my heart, ina my heart;  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus ina my heart.  
Ina my heart, ina my heart,  
Lord, I want to be like Jesus ina my heart.

### **Pastoral Prayer**

Lord our God, we thank you  
for the many people throughout the ages  
who have followed your way of life joyfully:  
for the many saints and martyrs, men, and women,  
who have offered up their very lives  
so that your life abundant may become manifest  
and your kingdom may advance.

Lord, we thank you for those  
who chose the way of your Son, our brother Jesus Christ.  
In the midst of trial, they held out hope;

in the midst of hatred, they kindled love;  
in the midst of persecutions, they witnessed to your power;  
in the midst of despair, they clung to your promise.  
O Lord, we thank you for the truth they learned and passed on to us:  
that it is by giving that we shall receive;  
it is by becoming weak that we shall be strong;  
it is by loving others that we shall be loved;  
it is by offering ourselves that the kingdom will unfold;  
it is by dying that we shall inherit life everlasting.  
Lord, give us courage to follow your way of life.

For your love and faithfulness  
we will at all times praise your name. **Amen.**

### **Benediction**

May the grace of God,  
freely given through Christ, our Lord,  
and sufficient for all our needs,  
and may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
who testifies with our spirit  
that we are God's children,  
guide and sustain us this day  
and forever. **Amen.**