

# TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 15

The Words and Food of Eternal Life

August 15, 2021



## AS WE GATHER

Today we consider why we follow Jesus. In the Gospel, we see many people stop following Jesus because His words offend them. When Jesus asks the disciples if they want to stop following Him as well, Peter answers, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.” Not only does Jesus have the words of eternal life, but He also gives us the food of eternal life—His body and blood. As we gather for worship, we gather around God’s Word and God’s Meal—the Lord’s Supper.

### ✠ PREPARATION ✠

**HYMN** “Now Thank We All Our God” #895

## INVOCATION

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Pastor:** The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

**People:** **Insight is knowing the holy one and seeking justice.**

**Pastor:** The way of the Lord leads to eternal life.

**People:** **The way of the world leads only to death.**

**Pastor:** Through His death and resurrection, Jesus opens the way of eternal life.

**People:** **Jesus has given us the words of eternal life.**

**Pastor:** Jesus gives us the food of eternal life, His body and blood.

**People:** **Come, let us listen to His words, walk His way, and delight in His food.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**Pastor:** Though Jesus has come down from the heavens as the bread of life for us, we sometimes listen to other people’s words. We sometimes choose to follow those who do not follow Jesus. We sometimes delight in earthly pleasures rather than the daily bread God has given us. Yet, our heavenly Father calls us back to Him, for His way is a way of forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have lived according to our own wisdom and desires. We have ignored Your words and wisdom. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us on the way of resurrection and eternal life, on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die and rise for you. Jesus, the living bread from heaven, has given His body and shed His blood so that you would be forgiven and have eternal life. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are forgiven. We have eternal life with Christ. Amen.**

**☩ WORD ☩**

**HYMN OF PRAISE**      “The Lord, My God, Be Praised” #794 vs 1,2,3

### **SALUTATION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**      *Proverbs 9:1–10*      (God’s way of wisdom)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL**      *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Fear the LORD, you His saints,  
for those who fear Him lack nothing!  
Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

**EPISTLE**     *Ephesians 5:6–21*     (Walking in the way of wisdom and love)

Pastor:     This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:**     **Thanks be to God.**

**VERSE**     *John 6:68*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

**HOLY GOSPEL**     *John 6:51–69*     (Jesus is the living bread from heaven.)

Pastor:     The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

**People:**     **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor:     This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:**     **Praise to You, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**     “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones”     #670 vs 1,2,4

**SERMON**

**Pastor Schroeder**

**CREED**     *Nicene Creed*     *found in back of hymnal*

**OFFERING & PRAYER**

(Members and Visitors: We would appreciate it if you would please take this time to fill out and pass the “Who’s In The Pew” folders, located at the center aisle end of each pew.)

Leader:     Gracious God, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – ourselves, our time, and our possessions, symbols of your gracious love.

**People:**     **Receive them for the sake of Him who offered Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our brother and Lord.**

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor:     Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord Jesus Christ, You descend from the heavens to feed Your people with the food of eternal life. As we follow You, help us to feed others both with earthly food and with heavenly food. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,

**People:**     **let me with holy food be fed.**

Pastor: Lord, we bring before You all those who have stopped following You. We pray that You would soften their hearts and give us wisdom to share Your words of eternal life so that they might follow You again. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,  
**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Pastor: Lord, Your ways are not our ways. Your thoughts are not our thoughts. Help us not to seek our own way but to seek Your way and Your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,  
**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Pastor: Lord, You have borne our griefs and shared in our sorrows. Bring Your comfort to all those who are suffering in grief, [*especially* . . .]. Point them to the hope of the resurrection to eternal life with Jesus. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,  
**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Pastor: Lord, strengthen all those who struggle with addictions. Break their bondage and lead them to get the help they need. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,  
**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Pastor: Lord, aid all pastors, teachers, church planters, missionaries, musicians, and servants in Your Church. Embolden them as they bring Your Word to Your people so that more and more people follow Your way. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,  
**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Pastor: Lord, look with favor upon all who are sick, injured, and recovering, [*especially* . . .]. Have mercy upon them and restore them to health according to Your wisdom. Lord Jesus Christ, life-giving bread,  
**People: let me with holy food be fed.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we commend all these things to Your infinite wisdom and guiding, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**People: Amen.**

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

**PREFACE** *2 Timothy 4:22*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**SANCTUS** *(p. 961 in hymnal)*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD** *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;  
1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

**PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension

into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**LORD'S PRAYER** *Matthew 6:9–13*

**People:**      **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.**

**PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:**      The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**People:**      **Amen.**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMNS**

"Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng"	#813
"What Is This Bread"	#629
"O Living Bread from Heaven"	#642

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

**Pastor:**      Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You sent Your Son to be the living bread from heaven. As we have feasted upon His body and blood for our forgiveness, strengthen us to continually follow Him and hear His Word; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:**      **Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**      *Numbers 6:24–26*

**Pastor:**      The Lord bless you and keep you.  
                  The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
                  The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:**      **Amen.**

**HYMN**      “Be Thou My Vision”

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