**12th Sunday after Pentecost**

**AS WE GATHER**

Today we consider Jesus’ claim that He is the bread of life and whoever feeds on His flesh and drinks His blood has eternal life. While this most certainly sounds mysterious, the way and wisdom of Jesus are often countercultural and counterintuitive. What He offers, however, is eternal life as He gives His body and pours out His blood for us and our salvation. That is mysterious.

**PSALM** 34:11-22

**INVOCATION, SENTENCES, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

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

**People: Amen.**

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.**

Pastor: Though Jesus has come down from the heavens as the bread of life for us, we sometimes listen more to other people’s words. We sometimes delight in earthly pleasures rather than God’s daily bread. Yet, our heavenly Father calls us back to Him, for His gracious way is a way of forgiveness and reinstatement. *Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**All: 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.**

**HYMN** *“In Thee Is Gladness”* (*LSB* 818)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Proverbs 9:1-10 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** Ephesians 5:6-21 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** John 6:51-69 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“O Word of God Incarnate”* (*LSB* 523)

**SERMON “*Insight”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“O God, My Faithful God”* (*LSB* 696)

**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

**HYMN** *“Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word”* (*LSB* 655)