**Icon

Description automatically generated11th Sunday after Pentecost**

“Jesus went on His way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to Him, ‘Lord, will those who are saved be few?’ And He said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. … And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.’” *Luke 13:22-24, 29-30*

**AS WE GATHER**

The Gospel of Christ is God’s invitation to salvation and eternal life. Cards or letters of invitation occasionally end with the eloquent phrase from the French language abbreviated only with the letters RSVP, signaling that the sender wishes to know for how many to plan in attendance. (Of course, we may presume God already knows that final number!) But to receive an RSVP invitation requires a response. Today, Jesus issues the invitation to the Kingdom asking all to “strive to enter.” Surprisingly, the response or effort required is simply to receive the benefit of our Lord’s own work on our behalf. You enter the open, narrow door through Baptism into the death of Christ. The baptismal life is a striving to die and rise daily by faith in the way of the cross of Christ. Through the door of the Eucharist we are nourished and faith is strengthened and sustained by Christ’s body and blood. This eating and drinking is necessary for the struggle of faith. Here today you continue your RSVP, entering the door who is Christ by the power of your Holy Baptism.

**PSALM** 50:1-15

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting One, pg. 151)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Today Your Mercy Calls Us”* (*LSB* 915)

**KYRIE** (*LSB*, pg. 152-153)

**HYMN OF PRAISE** *“This Is the Feast”*(*LSB*, pg. 155)

**SALUTATION and COLLECT OF THE DAY** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 66:18-23 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below the Collect)*

**EPISTLE** Hebrews 12:4-24 (25-29) *(bulletin insert)*

**ALLELUIA and VERSE** (*LSB*, pg. 156)

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 13:22-30 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“O Worship the King”* (*LSB* 804)

**SERMON *“The Narrow Door”***

**NICENE CREED** (*LSB*, pg. 158)

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**OFFERTORY** *“What Shall I Render to the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 159)

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**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.*

**COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 160-163)

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Jesus Comes Today with Healing”* (*LSB* 620)

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** *“Thank the Lord”*(*LSB*, pg. 164)

**POST-COMMUNION COLLECT** (*LSB*, pg. 166)

### BENEDICTION (LSB, pg. 166)

**HYMN** *“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”* (*LSB* 791)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**