

**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 may sound mysterious to us, it was downright offensive to those who first heard these words. The way and wisdom of Jesus are often countercultural and counterintuitive, but He offers us eternal life as He gives His body and pours out His blood for us and our salvation.

**Gathering Song                      Here I Am to Worship**

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
Beauty that made this heart adore You,  
Hope of a life spent with you.

*Chorus*     Here I am to worship, Here I am to bow down,  
              Here I am to say that You're my God  
              You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy,  
              Altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above,  
Humbly You came to the earth You created,  
All for love's sake became poor. **(Chorus)**

I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross  
I'll never know how much it cost  
To see my sin upon that cross. **(Chorus)**

You're altogether lovely, Altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me – to me.

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**Welcome & Invocation**

**Opening Song                      This Is Amazing Grace**

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness  
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger  
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder  
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder  
The King of Glory the King above all kings

*Chorus*     This is amazing grace  
This is unfailing love  
That You would take my place  
That You would bear my cross  
You laid down Your life  
That I would be set free  
Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order  
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter  
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice  
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance  
The King of Glory the King above all kings **Chorus**

Oh Jesus I sing for all that You've done for me

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### **Confession & Forgiveness**

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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, You are the living bread come down from heaven to give us life eternal. Strengthen us as we follow Your wisdom, Your way, and Your Word, that we remain steadfast in the true faith until Your glorious return; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### **Reader**

*Carolyn Wickert*

### **First Reading**

*Proverbs 9:1–10*

*(God's way of wisdom)*

- <sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house;  
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- <sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine;  
she has also set her table.
- <sup>3</sup>She has sent out her young women to call  
from the highest places in the town,
- <sup>4</sup>"Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!"  
To him who lacks sense she says,
- <sup>5</sup>"Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- <sup>6</sup>Leave your simple ways, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight."
- <sup>7</sup>Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse,  
and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.
- <sup>8</sup>Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you;

reprove a wise man, and he will love you.  
<sup>9</sup>Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser;  
teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.  
<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading**

*Ephesians 5:6–21*

*(Walking in the way of wisdom and love)*

<sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not associate with them; <sup>8</sup>for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

<sup>15</sup>Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup>making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup>And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup>addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, <sup>20</sup>giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup>submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Third Reading**

*John 6:51–69*

*(Jesus is the living bread from heaven.)*

<sup>51</sup>[Jesus said:] “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 as 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 of no avail. 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."

Pastor: This is the Word of our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children's Message / Kid's Church**

#### **Song of the Day                      Jesus, All For Jesus**

Jesus, all for Jesus  
All I am and have and ever hope to be  
Jesus, all for Jesus  
All I am and have and ever hope to be  
All of my ambitions, hopes, and plans  
I surrender these into Your hands.  
All of my ambitions, hopes and plans  
I surrender these into Your hands  
For it's only in Your will that I am free  
For it's only in Your will that I am free  
Jesus, all for Jesus  
All I am and have and ever hope to be.

#### *Instrumental*

For it's only in Your will that I am free  
For it's only in Your will that I am free  
Jesus, all for Jesus  
All I am and have and ever hope to be.

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#### **Sermon    "Offensive Wisdom"**

*Pastor Aaron Boerst*

#### **Creed – Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

#### **Prayers of the Church**

Pastor: 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. 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: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

***Local concerns are added by congregational elder.***

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## **Sharing the Peace**

### **Offering**

#### **Jesus, Name Above All Names**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, name above all names, Beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.

Emmanuel, God is with us Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.

<sup>2</sup> Jesus, loving Shepherd Vine of the branches, Son of God.

Prince of Peace, Wonderful Counselor Lord of the universe, Light of the world.

<sup>3</sup> Jesus, Way of salvation. King of kings. Lord of lords.

The way, the truth, and the Life, Mighty creator, My Savior and friend.

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#### **Presentation of Gifts**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. *[Psalm 145:15, James 1:17]*

**People: Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

### **Preface**

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

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

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

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

**The Words of Our Lord** *[Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]*

### **Proclamation of Christ**

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.  
*[1 Cor.11:26]*

**People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *[Revelation 22:20]*

### **Lord's Prayer** *[Matthew 6:9–13]*

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**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.**

### **Distribution**

#### **Build My life**

Worthy of every song we could ever sing  
Worthy of all the praise we could ever bring  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You We live for You

Jesus the name above every other name  
Jesus the only one that could ever save  
Worthy of every breath we could ever breathe  
We live for You  
We live for You

Holy there is no one like You  
There is none beside You  
Open up my eyes in wonder and show me who You are  
And fill me with Your heart  
And lead me in Your love to those around me

I will build my life upon Your love  
It is a firm foundation  
I will put my trust in You alone  
And I will not be shaken

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#### **Stand in Your Love**

When darkness tries to roll over my bones  
When sorrow comes to steal the joy I own  
When brokenness and pain is all I know

I won't be shaken I won't be shaken

**Chorus** My fear doesn't stand a chance  
When I stand in Your love  
My fear doesn't stand a chance  
When I stand in Your love  
My fear doesn't stand a chance  
When I stand in Your love

Shame no longer has a place to hide  
I am not a captive to the lies  
I'm not afraid to leave my past behind  
I won't be shaken I won't be shaken **Chorus X2**

Standing in Your love

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### **Breathe**

This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
Your holy presence living in me  
This is my daily bread  
This is my daily bread  
Your very Word spoken to me

And I I'm desperate for You  
And I I'm lost without You

This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe  
Your holy presence living in me  
This is my daily bread  
This is my daily bread  
Your very Word spoken to me

And I I'm desperate for You  
And I I'm lost without You I'm lost without You

This is the air I breathe  
This is the air I breathe

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### **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.**

### **Announcements**

#### **Sending Song            I Saw the Light**

I wandered so aimless, Life filled with sin  
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in  
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night  
Praise the Lord I saw the light

Chorus: I saw the light, I saw the light  
No more darkness, No more night  
Now I'm so happy, No sorrow in sight  
Praise the Lord, I saw the light

Just like a blind man I wandered alone  
Worries and fears I claimed for my own  
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight  
Praise the Lord I saw the light **(Chorus)**

I was a fool To wander and stray  
Straight is the gate And narrow the way  
Now I have traded the wrong for the right  
Praise the Lord I saw the light **(Chorus twice)**

Praise the Lord, I saw the light

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