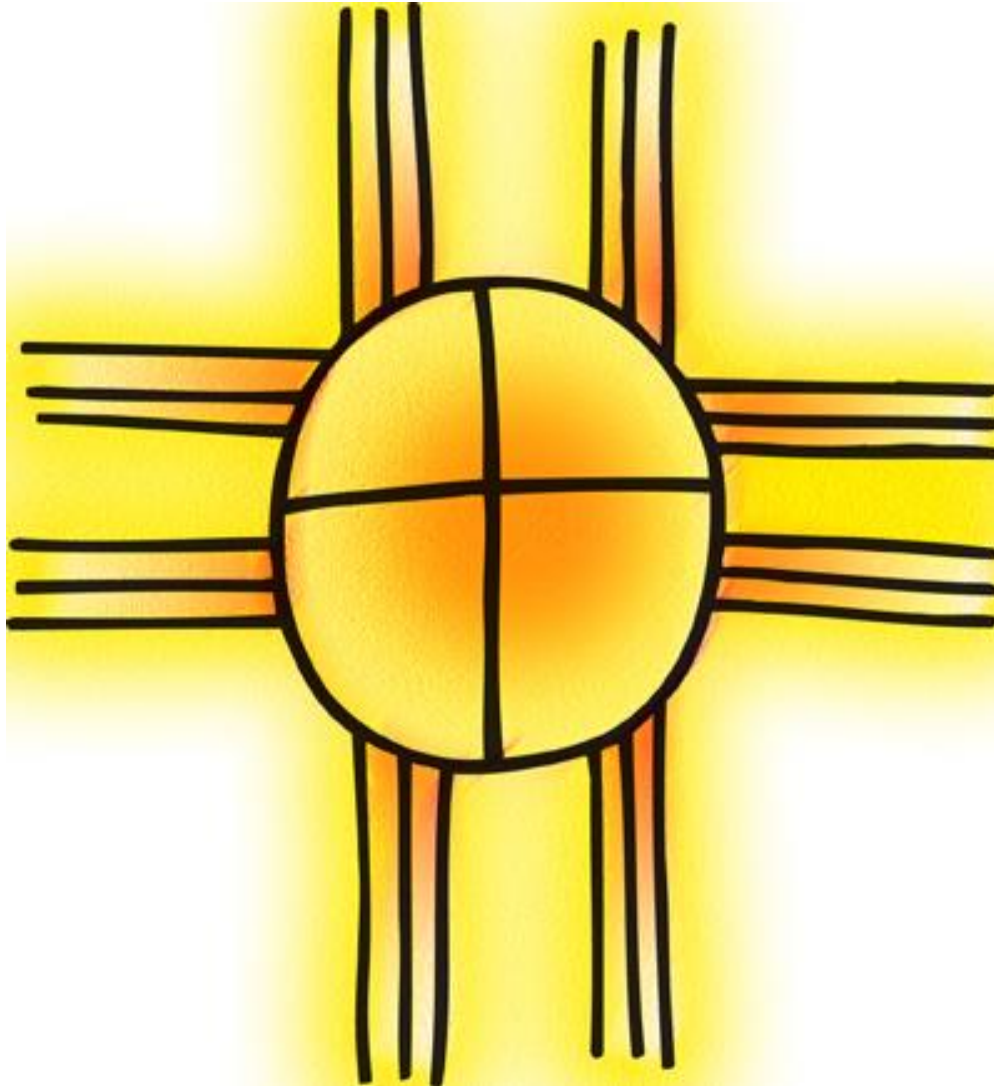


August 15, 2021

12th Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to the day

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from Proverbs.

¹Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says,

⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14

⁹Fear the LORD, you saints of the LORD,
for those who fear the LORD lack nothing.

¹⁰**The lions are in want and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.**

¹¹Come, children, and listen to me;
I will teach you reverence for the LORD.

¹²**Who among you takes pleasure in life
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity?**

¹³Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from lying words.

¹⁴**Turn from evil and do good; seek peace¹ and pursue it. R**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL: John 6:51-58

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said,] ⁵¹“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵²The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.

⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Alena will be gone all week for Continuing Education, so there will be no Bible studies.

If there is an emergency, please call her cell phone. (720)256-3007.

God’s Work Our Hands is Sept. 12. This year we are collecting items for Running Creak Elementary. Please bring the items to church either on that day or any time before hand.

Snacks that are "filling but on the healthy side".

*They must be individually packaged:

Granola bars, crunchy or chewy

Animal crackers

Breakfast bars

Goldfish crackers

Cereal bars

School Supplies:

Markers

Folders (all colors)

Kid scissors

Small, 1" 3-ring notebooks

Glue (bottles)

Colored pencils

Glue sticks

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