

## **Worship Plan for Sunday, August 19, 2018**

Lectionary 20

Proper 15

13th Sunday after Pentecost

ELW Holy Communion Setting One

Sunday, August 19, 2018

### **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**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Proverbs.

*Wisdom is portrayed as a woman who invites people to partake of her banquet. Just as ordinary food is necessary for physical life, Wisdom's food—insight and understanding—is necessary for fullness of life with God. Partaking of Wisdom's banquet is the way to life.*

- <sup>1</sup>Wisdom has built her house,  
she has hewn her seven pillars.
- <sup>2</sup>She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,  
she has also set her table.
- <sup>3</sup>She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls  
from the highest places in the town,
- <sup>4</sup>“You that are simple, turn in here!”  
To those without sense she says,
- <sup>5</sup>“Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed.
- <sup>6</sup>Lay aside immaturity, and live,  
and walk in the way of insight.”

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 34:9-14**

Those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good. (*Ps. 34:10*)

- <sup>9</sup>Fear the LORD, you saints | of the LORD,  
for those who fear the | LORD lack nothing.
- <sup>10</sup>**The lions are in want and | suffer hunger,  
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing | that is good. R**
- <sup>11</sup>Come, children, and lis- | ten to me;  
I will teach you reverence | for the LORD.
- <sup>12</sup>**Who among you takes plea- | sure in life  
and desires long life to en- | joy prosperity?**
- <sup>13</sup>Keep your | tongue from evil  
and your lips from | lying words.
- <sup>14</sup>**Turn from evil | and do good;  
seek peace | and pursue it. R**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:15-20**

*The reading may be announced:*

A reading from Ephesians.

*True wisdom integrates our new reality in Christ with our Christian fellowship and daily conduct. Because we are filled with the Spirit, Christians regularly rejoice together, give thanks to God for one another, and care for one another. In this way we revere our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

*The assembly responds:*

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: John 6:51-58**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In John's gospel, the feeding of the five thousand leads to extended teaching in which Jesus identifies himself as the true "bread of life." Finally, in these verses, he makes a connection that would not be understood until after his death, in light of the church's celebration of holy communion.*

[Jesus said,] <sup>51</sup>"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."

<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, "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. <sup>54</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup>for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup>Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup>Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup>This 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 concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Trusting in our loving and almighty God who abundantly provides the bread of life to all who hunger, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O Lord, you build your church, the body of Christ, and sustain it with living bread. Let wisdom guide your church, and teach all its members the way of righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, bless the work of musicians, composers, writers, and all artists. Move us to even greater praise through their gifts of creativity. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we thank you for the diversity of the nations. Shower your wisdom and mercy upon all leaders and citizens. Give us all the courage to seek peace and pursue it. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, send calm and perseverance to those who are in trouble or who live daily with great stress. Fill them with your Spirit and satisfy them with your presence (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, we thank you for this congregation. Give us gratitude for the many blessings we enjoy, and inspire us to give thanks at all times. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

O Lord, we bless you for family, friends, and sisters and brothers in Christ who have guided us in wisdom and insight. Lead us into peace with all people until the day of Christ. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Almighty and loving God, we look to you in hope and trust, knowing that you will do far more than we can ask or imagine, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

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