

## **Readings for August 29, 2021**

### **Prayer of the Day:**

P: Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

### **Old Testament Reading: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18**

<sup>1</sup>Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2a</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

### **Epistle Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20**

<sup>10</sup>Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt

of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

### **Gospel: John 6:56-69**

[Jesus said,] <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." <sup>59</sup>He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup>When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" <sup>61</sup>But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? <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 that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup>But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup>And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

<sup>66</sup>Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. <sup>67</sup>So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" <sup>68</sup>Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup>We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

*Children and Teachers are invited to bring their backpacks and gather at the front of the church as the closing hymn is sung.*

## Welcome & Prayer

P: Let us pray:

God our teacher, source of wisdom and knowledge,  
Thank you for the privilege of education in our community. In a year of turmoil, disruption, and loss, we acknowledge the gift of learning and the gift of teaching in ways we may not have appreciated before. We ask for your strength and peace as we celebrate the beginning of this new school year. We ask for your blessings upon the children here and at home, the educators, and the families who support them that together we may know and do your will. As we lift up to you those who have what they need to learn and grow in safety, we also ask you to be with those who lack supplies, teachers, safe buildings, and accommodations for their needs and abilities. We commend to your care all of our young people and all those who care for and teach them. Continue to be with them Lord.

Amen.

*Children & Teachers receive backpack tags and a special message.*

## Blessing & Prayer

God of wisdom and knowledge, we bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you. In our backpacks we carry many things, and in our hearts, we care big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. God, our friend, who is always with us, be with us through it all.

*Congregation ends each following petition with ... **Be with us.***

For the grown-ups going back to school to support the learning of these children; be with them, too. Provide for those here who use their servant's heart to teach that together students may know and follow your ways. Gracious God, lead us this school year into life-giving rhythms where our regular routines become the framework for worship and blessing. God, we ask you to bless these children, their teachers and their families that support them. We ask all these things through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

*Congregation is invited to stand and receive the Benediction*

## Benediction

Children, families, and all who love them,  
Go out into the beautiful world that God has made.  
Go and play, learn and love others!  
May you be filled with loving kindness for yourself and everyone around you. May the prayers of your faith community keep you safe, healthy, and full of joy.

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** "Pomp and Circumstance" by Edward Elgar

---

**Prayer list:** Carol, Nancy, Pastor Steve Swanson, Jean, Guy, Perry, Rose, Cindy, Corie, Sandy, Gary, Michael, Will, Gerry, Bob & Sue, Jennifer, Dave, Tyce, Jen, all those diagnosed with COVID-19, and those we hold in our thoughts.

---

In alignment with local mandates, masks are required for all people indoors. We appreciate you helping us care for one another.

Check out our Family Faith resources page for videos and activities for children and their families. Visit [www.concordiafaith.org/familyfaith!](http://www.concordiafaith.org/familyfaith!)

Our next pick-up date for the Common Pantry 'Take What You Need' food pantry in the lobby of Swedish Covenant hospital is **September 7<sup>th</sup>!** Please bring shelf-stable groceries (examples are: canned goods, pasta, jarred sauces, rice, boxed mixes, etc.) to the marked container(s) in the church's main entrance **on or before Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.** Connect with [Jen Phillips](#) if you have any questions.

Join us on **Holy Cross Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**, when we'll dedicate the new processional cross handmade by Gary Radtke and celebrate with a fellowship lunch following worship!