



Jesus is the Best
Choice You'll Never Make

August 25, 2024

An Explanation of Our Communion Practice

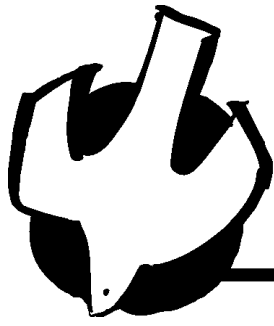
Today we are celebrating the Lord's Supper, which is a wonderful gift from our gracious God. In his Word, God teaches that Christians need a proper understanding of the Lord's Supper before receiving it (1 Corinthians 11:27-29). He also tells us that Christians should be completely united before communing together (1 Corinthians 10:17). Therefore, we ask that only members of our fellowship (The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and, worldwide, The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference) commune at Trinity.

We do want everyone to commune with us. So that everything may be done decently and in good order (1 Corinthians 14:40), we ask for the opportunity to verify that we are united in our beliefs based on God's Word, and then to celebrate that unity publicly in the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more, please speak to Pastor. Thank you for your understanding of our belief and practice.

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 25, 2024

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service, we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

Serving the Lord and Serving Us:

Pastor: Rev. Paul Jenkins

Today's Focus: The Lord draws us to Jesus' side and keeps us there. We are his choice! Our worship follows *The Common Service*.

We Come into the Presence of God

MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.

OPENING HYMN: 241, Alleluia! Let Praises Ring, verses 1-3



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! To God the Fa - ther
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! Un - to the Lamb of
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! Un - to the Ho - ly



let us bring Our songs of ad - o - ra - tion. To him
God we sing, In whom we are e - lect - ed. He bought
Ghost we sing For our re - gen - er - a - tion. The sav -



through ev - er - last - ing days Be wor - ship, hon - or,
the Church with his own blood; He cleansed her in that
ing faith in us he wrought And us un - to the



pow'r, and praise Whose hand sus - tains cre - a - tion.
bless - ed flood And as his bride se - lect - ed.
Bride-groom brought, Made us his cho - sen na - tion.



Sing - ing, Ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly.
Ho - ly, Ho - ly Is our un - ion And com - mun - ion.
Glo - ry! Glo - ry! Joy e - ter - nal, Bliss su - per - nal;



Spread the sto - ry Of our God, the Lord of glo - ry.
His be - friend - ing Gives us joy and peace un - end - ing.
There is man - na And an end - less, glad ho - san - na.

Text: *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, Darmstadt, 1698; tr. composite.
Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

INVOCATION

Minister: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

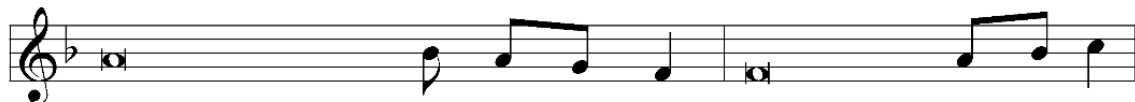
M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



C: **Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**



We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;



O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the



sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the

sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray. Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Be Seated

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Joshua 24:1-2, 14-18

The Lord's amazing goodness to Joshua and the Israelites – freeing them from slavery and preserving them on a forty-two-year journey to the Promised Land – drew them to stay with him.

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, and he summoned the elders of Israel, its heads, its judges, and its officers, and they presented themselves before God.

2 Then Joshua told all the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, has said.”

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Joshua said, “Now, therefore, fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly and faithfully. Remove the gods that your fathers served in the region across the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15 But if you see no benefit in serving the LORD, then choose for yourselves today whomever you will serve—whether the gods that your fathers served 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!”

16 The people responded by saying, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD in order to serve other gods! 17 For the LORD our God, he is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, where we were slaves. He is the one who performed these great signs right before our eyes and protected us on the whole journey that we made and among all the peoples through whom we passed. 18 The LORD drove out of our presence all the peoples and the Amorites who were living in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God!”

PSALM OF THE DAY: 71

Read Responsively

M: In you, O LORD, I have taken refuge;

C: let me never be put to shame.

M: Rescue me and deliver me in your righteousness;

C: turn your ear to me and save me.

M: Be my rock of refuge to which I can always go;

C: for you are my rock and my fortress.

M: Since my youth, O God, you have taught me,

C: and to this day I declare your marvelous deeds.

M: Even when I am old and gray,

C: do not forsake me, O God,

M: till I declare your power to the next generation,

C: your might to all who are to come.

SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 11:24-28

The Lord's servant Moses stayed by the Lord's side despite a strong temptation to leave.

By faith Moses refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter when he grew up. ²⁵ He chose to be mistreated with God's people rather than enjoy sin for a little while. ²⁶ He considered disgrace for the sake of Christ as greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, because he was looking ahead to his reward.

²⁷ By faith he left Egypt without fearing the king's wrath, because he persevered as one who sees him who is invisible.

²⁸ By faith he celebrated the Passover and the sprinkling of blood, so that the destroyer of the firstborn would not strike them down.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia! (*1 Timothy 1:10b*)

Stand

GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

John 6:51-69

M: The Holy Gospel of St. John, chapter 6.

C: Glory be to you, O Lord!

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵² At that, the Jews argued among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life in yourselves. ⁵⁴ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the Last Day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. ⁵⁶ The one who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like your fathers ate and died. The one who eats this bread will live forever."

⁵⁹ He said these things while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. ⁶⁰ When they heard it, many of his disciples said, "This is a hard teaching! Who can listen to it?"

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⁶¹ But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, asked them, “Does this cause you to stumble in your faith? ⁶² What if you would see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? ⁶³ The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh does not help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. ⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning those who would not believe and the one who would betray him. ⁶⁵ He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is given to him by my Father.”

⁶⁶ After this, many of his disciples turned back and were not walking with him anymore. ⁶⁷ So Jesus asked the Twelve, “You do not want to leave too, do you?”

⁶⁸ Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. ⁶⁹ We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and became fully human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

**who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Jesus Makes Us Loyal

HYMN OF THE DAY: 462, Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways To
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, And
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, A
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands— 'Tis



keep his stat - utes still! Oh, that my God would
make my heart sin - cere; Let sin have no do -
strict - er watch to keep; And should I e'er for -
a de - light - ful road— Nor let my head or



grant me grace To know and do his will!
min - ion, Lord, But keep my con - science clear.
get your way, Re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
heart or hands Of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: EVAN (CM) William H. Havergal, 1793–1870, adapt.

SERMON

TEXT: John 6:51-69

THEME: Jesus is the Best Choice You'll Never Make

Stand

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'CREATE IN ME'. It consists of five staves of music in a single system. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The music is written in a soprano clef (treble clef).

Be Seated

OFFERING

Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your pew.

The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.

Stand

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord of power and grace, whose eyes are on the righteous and whose ears are open to their cry, hear the prayer of your people as we come now in thankfulness for the mercies you pour down on us anew each day.

We thank you for the gifts of your mighty providence. Make us mindful that you have provided us with life, breath, and being and are the source of our daily bread.

(Continued on Next Page)

We praise you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be the Savior of the world. Grant that we may believe in him with all our hearts, learning from him the great truths of the kingdom to which he bore faithful witness.

Grant us your Holy Spirit, that we may produce the fruits of righteousness. May he endow us with unwavering faith, that we may always be ready to do your will.

We pray for the nations of the earth. Subdue terror and tyranny everywhere, and call forth leaders who acknowledge that you are Lord over all the earth. Bless our own land. Make it ever follow that which is good, and turn from all that is wicked, that our people may prosper in uprightness and integrity.

Hear our cry for those who are afflicted. Grant them health in body and soul, and save them for your mercy's sake.

Special prayers

M: Guide and uphold us during our pilgrimage in this world, and bring us all to our heavenly home. Receive these petitions in the name of the Prince of Life, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is good and right so to do.

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody consists of six lines of music. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this (+) is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this (+) is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - men.

Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN: 310, I Come, O Savior, to Your Table, verses 1-8



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to your ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Oh, grant that I in man - ner wor - thy May now trust
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Oh, let me loathe all sin for - ev - er As death and
 5 Your heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners



wea - ry is my soul; O Je - sus, you a - lone are
 sole - ly in your Word, And, con - scious of the sins be -
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet you your lamb will ban - ish
 poi - son to my soul, That I through will - ful sin - ning
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to you in faith are

Refrain



a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole.
 fore me, Look on - ly un - to you, O Lord.
 nev - er, Nor will your faith - ful - ness de - part. Lord, may your
 nev - er May see your judg - ment take its toll!
 turn - ing; So let me, too, come trust - ing - ly.



bod - y and your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

6 Weary am I and heavy laden;
 With sin my soul is sore oppressed.
 Receive me graciously and gladden
 My heart, for I am now your guest.
Refrain

7 You here will find a heart most lowly
 That feels unworthy in your sight,
 That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely
 Your merit pleads, as it is right.
Refrain

8 By faith I call your holy table
 The testament of your deep love,
 For by your gift I now am able
 To know the heart of God above.
Refrain

Stand

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

BE SEATED

CLOSING HYMN: 241, Alleluia! Let Praises Ring, verse 4

4 Al - le - lu - ia! Let prais-es ring! Un - to our tri - une
God we sing; Blest be his name for - ev - er! With an -
gel hosts let us a - dore And sing his prais - es
more and more For all his grace and fa - vor.
Sing - ing, Ring - ing: Ho - ly, ho - ly, God is ho - ly.
Spread the sto - ry Of our God the Lord of glo - ry!

Text: *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, Darmstadt, 1698; tr. composite.

Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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Pastor Paul Jenkins: revpauljenkins@yahoo.com, (309) 433-5807

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Find us online at www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge

Fall Membership Directory

The new Fall Membership Directory is now available! Hardcopies can be found on the table in Narthex. A digital copy is also available. Please email Dawn Knox @ Admin@TrinityofWoodbridge.org if you have not received a copy.

Needed: One Christmas Program Director for the annual Sunday School Christmas Program! Talk to Pastor Jenkins or Rachel Kovaciny if you are interested in volunteering!

Summer Bible Class

Bible class (on Luther's Large Catechism) meets from 9:15-9:45 each Sunday morning, with Sunday School adjourned.

Worship Time Change; Bible Class, Sunday School, and Catechism Information

Our summer worship and Bible class schedule continues through Sunday, September 1. Beginning Sunday, September 8, we return to two worship services (8:30 and 11:00), with Bible class and Sunday School running from 9:45-10:45. (The first Bible class will be "The Holy Spirit and His Work.") Catechism instruction will also begin on the 8th from noon until about 1. (Everyone is welcome to attend Catechism for a review. Please let pastor know if you're planning to attend so he can order you a copy. Each lesson will also be repeated on Tuesday nights at 7 in the Fellowship Hall.)

September Sunday School Service Project

From Sunday, September 8, through the end of the month our Sunday School will be collecting books, food, and hygiene items for Trinity's Little Free Library. Please look for the bin in the narthex and know that all contributions are most useful and welcome by our neighborhood.

Sign Up for Sunday School!

Trinity's Sunday school classes will start up again on September 8. Please take a minute to register your kids (preschool through 8th grade) at <https://trinityofwoodbridge.org/sundayschool/> so we have an accurate headcount and current info for all our Sunday school classes.

Women's Bible Study Starts September 14

The Trinity Women's Bible Study will meet Saturday, September 14 at 9:00 am at Trinity. We'll start the book "Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success" by Sharla Fritz. Copies can be found in the narthex. The Bible Study will meet the second Saturday of each month. For questions, please contact Erika Ohlendorf at erika.ohlendorf@gmail.com.

Wine and Word Bible Study – Sept 19

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying The Apocrypha with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. The study of follows the study guide for *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes* (available from Northwestern or Concordia Publishing Houses and other booksellers). You can also follow the readings at apocrypha.org. Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or dawn.f.knox@gmail.com to RSVP.

Fifth Annual Trunk or Treat: Saturday, October 19

Saturday, October 19, will be the date of Trinity's Fifth Annual Trunk or Treat outreach event from 3-4pm in our parking lot. If you're planning on hosting a trunk, please let pastor know. We could also use a couple of volunteers to host a Welcome Table, and one or two for traffic control. If you have any questions or could help out in either of those way, please speak to pastor also. If you can't make it host a trunk but would like to contribute, candy donations are welcome.

Trinity's Little Free Library is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org

Lord's Supper Available to All Members

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or revpauljenkins@yahoo.com with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work



Wait, What?

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20210823/>

“Wait, what?” Antonio was so confused. “If God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, how come the Bible says there is only one God and not three Gods?” That made Katie think of another question, “And how could it be that God could simply say words and create the whole world out of nothing?” That made Deon think of a question, too. “And if Jesus is true God how could he come into this world as a little baby?” Olivia didn’t even raise her hand. She just shouted out her question, “And how could Jesus die if he’s true God?”

So many questions! I bet you could think of more. How did God split the Red Sea for Moses and the Israelites? How did Jesus turn water into wine? How do I get to heaven only by believing in Jesus and not by any work of my own?

If you’ve ever had questions about God or the Bible, you’re not alone! Today’s story tells us about some very confused people. Jesus had been teaching that he was the Bread of Life, meaning that he alone is the one who gives life to people—both life with God and life in heaven. But the people only thought about the bread part. “How can Jesus say he is bread? How are we supposed to eat another person?”

But that’s not what Jesus meant. When Jesus told them that people must eat his flesh and drink his blood, he simply meant that they should believe in him. Kind of like you take in food or drink and it keeps your life going and strengthens you, so when we take in Jesus by faith, he gives us eternal life. But even more, these words of Jesus remind us that later on he gave us a very special meal that we call the Lord’s Supper or Communion. In that meal Jesus does come with his body and blood in the bread and wine for people to eat and drink and receive his forgiveness and comfort.

Sometimes these teachings of Jesus and the Bible are very difficult for our human brains to understand. But that doesn’t mean they aren’t true. Instead, we can pray that Jesus opens our hearts and minds to do the very thing that he teaches—to eat the Bread of Life—to believe in him and receive the life that he gives.

Questions to Consider

Name something about God that is difficult for you to understand.

What should we do if there is something about God that we don’t understand?

What did Jesus mean when he said people should “eat his flesh” and “drink his blood?”

Compare and contrast eating bread to “eating” Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Agree/Disagree: It is comforting to know that God is often beyond our understanding. Explain your answer.

Jesus is obviously not bread. He’s true God and true man. So why would Jesus teach people using picture language like saying he’s the Bread of Life?

It is the mission of

trinity



LUTHERAN
CHURCH

to glorify God

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.