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**13th Sunday after Pentecost August 18, 2024 Video**

*Good morning. This is Richfield Lutheran Church’s video worship service for August 18. I’m Pastor Brian, with me today is Paul on the organ. The printed bulletin for this service can be found on our website, Richfield-Lutheran.org.*

*Our gospel is John 6:51-58. Christ, the wisdom of God, today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. We can't help hearing Jesus’ words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.*

1. **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

**Gathering Hymn** *If God My Lord Be for Me*  **# 788**

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

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.**

1. **WORD**

**Gospel: John 6:51-58** *(*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.*)*

The holy gospel according to John, the 6th chapter.

**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.**

**Sermon** *You are What You Eat* Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day** *I am the Bread of Life* **# 485**

**Prayers of the People**

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Wisdom has built her house. May the church be a house of wisdom for all who enter. May we continue to grow and stretch in ways we never thought possible. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has mixed her wine. May the harvest seasons be plentiful this year. We pray for orchards, vineyards, farms, and all of creation. Protect and conserve the earth. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has employed her laborers. Be with all who seek adequate employment. Guide our economic and governmental leaders to support the people of our world with fair wages and safe working conditions. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has invited her guests. Make your presence known to all who feel lost, abandoned, or hurting at this time. Direct your spirit of care to all who seek healing and comfort, especially those whom we name in our hearts…. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Wisdom has set her table. May this congregation be a welcome table to all who seek the refuge of God. Break down walls and barriers that prevent us from offering a seat at this table to anyone who comes. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

*(A brief silence.)*

Wisdom has shown her path of insight. May we journey on her paths, looking toward a bright future while remembering from where we have come. We give our thanks for those who have gone before us. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

**Amen.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today via our website: Richfield-Lutheran.org/give. Thank you for your faithful generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*On August 18, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:30. We celebrate Holy Communion. Afterwards we share fellowship. All are welcome.*

*Next Sunday, August 25, our gospel is John 6:56-69.* The “hard saying” that offends Jesus’ disciples is his claim that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood. The followers who return to their old lives know something about how odd this sounds. Simon Peter, on the other hand, knows something about the scarcity of living, gracious words. He asks the most important question: “To whom shall we go?”

*Until then, go forth with God’s blessing.*

**Blessing**

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *As We Gather at Your Table* **# 522**

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**This Week’s Daily Bible Readings:**

Monday, August 19. Psalm 36

Tuesday, August 20. Acts 7:9-16

Wednesday, August 21. Genesis 47:13-26

Thursday, August 22. Psalm 34:15-22

Friday, August 23. Romans 13:11-14

Saturday, August 24. John 1:43-51

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