

✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION, and ABSOLUTION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Together, we pray.

C: O God our Father, light-creator, Your perfect glory exposes the darkness of our ways. As children who stray from their Father's instruction, we have wandered in disobedience and stumbled in what we have thought, said, and done. By the rescuing work of Your Son, the light of the world, shine on us the bright beams of forgiveness. Wash us in the light of His resurrection victory so that we make melodies with our lips and honor You with our lives. Amen.

L: In Christ Jesus, You who once were darkness are now light. Walk as children of the light. Be who you are!

C: Amen.

✠ SALUTATION and COLLECT

L: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant us grace to know Your Son, Jesus, who alone has the words of eternal life, that we would walk in the light of His glory and truth; 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)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT READING: Proverbs 9:1–10 *(Wisdom is seen and heard.)*

Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table. She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town, "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says, "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury. Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:6 – 21 *(We walk as children of light.)*

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore, do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything

is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: John 6:51-69 (*Jesus speaks words of spirit and life.*)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

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

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." Jesus said these things in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and who it was who would betray him.) And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father."

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you want to go away as well?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY NO. **411** : *"I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light"*

✠ SERMON: *"Walk as Children of the Light"* Ephesians 5:6-21

(Please Stand)

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. For all of God's children, both here at St. John's and throughout the world, that the darkness of sin would scatter and we be filled with the light of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Light of the world, shine on us.

L: For the mission of the Gospel, that the Holy Spirit touches hearts wherever God's Word is preached, and many souls be brought to saving faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Word made flesh, speak to us and through us.

L: For all servant leaders in this church and in the world, that their work for our benefit be a blessing and that they be guided by wisdom from on high, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Light of the world, lead our way.

L: For the living out of our vocations, that we see our various roles at home, at work, in society, and at church as ways to serve the living God, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Word made flesh, grant that we serve You by serving others.

L: For all who are willing to lay down their lives for their fellow citizens, including military members, law enforcement officers, and emergency workers, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Light of the world, grant safety and strength.

L: For all who are broken in heart, mind, and body, that they receive healing mercies from our faithful Father, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Word made flesh, touch the lives of all who are sick.

L: For these and all other concerns we have, that coming before the throne of grace we find mercy to help us in our time of need, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Light of the world, we praise and glorify Your holy name! Amen.

✠ **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ **BENEDICTION**

L: The LORD bless you and keep you.

The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

✠ **CLOSING HYMN NO. 686: "Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing"**

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proverbs 9:1–10, Ephesians 5:6–21, John 6:51–69

Jesus Is the Word and Wisdom of God, Who Gives You Life and Light in His Flesh

Jesus is the divine Word by Whom all things were made, Who has become flesh and dwells among us. He gives His flesh "for the life of the world," not only as a sacrifice for sin but as "the living bread" from heaven (John 6:51). Eat His flesh and drink His blood (John 6:54–57), and no longer walk in the darkness of sin, but walk in His light. "Arise from the dead" and live in Him, because you are "light in the Lord" (Ephesians 5:8, 14). Being filled with His Spirit, confess Him to "one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart" (Ephesians 5:18–19). Fear, love and trust in Him, "and serve Him in sincerity and in faithfulness" (Joshua 24:14). For He has brought you "out of the house of slavery" by His cross and resurrection, and now He does "great signs" in your sight (Joshua 24:17). Indeed, He is the divine wisdom, Who has built His house, prepared His feast and set His table; He bids you to recline and eat of His bread and drink of the wine He has mixed (Proverbs 9:1–5).