

Lancaster Theological Seminary

Service of Word and Sacrament

August 15 & 18, 2018



"I am the living
bread."

Ordinary Time

Assembly Copy

Gathering as the Body of Christ

Centering Song: “Jesus I Live To You” (v. 1 [x2] & 4), NCH 457

Greeting

Translations in parentheses are printed to be read, but not spoken.

One Bienvenido! Welcome friends, neighbors, sisters, and brothers!

El Señor esté con Ustedes. (The Lord be with you.)

Many Y también contigo. (And also with you.)

One Oremos. (Let us pray.)

Call to Worship

One The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word.

Many Morning by morning God wakens – wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught.

One We come together to eagerly listen to what the Spirit may call us toward.

Many We hunger and thirst to taste the bread of life. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: “Break Thou the Bread of Life,” UMH 599**

***Call to Confession**

***Confession**

Many **All Wise God, we thank you
for giving us this time to look into our words, thoughts and deeds.
We confess that we fool ourselves into believing
that we possess all of the knowledge that we need.
As we go from place to place, we block you out.
We fail to see that we are always in your presence.
We stray, seeking other gods,
whose ways may be easy but cannot show us
the ways of love and truth.
We create space between you and us,
and between ourselves and each other,
as members of Christ's one body.
We are afraid of being fed with the living bread of Jesus.
Fill us with the Holy Spirit that we might live each day
according to your will and plan for us and for your world.
Help us to discern your wisdom
that we might live eternally with you and Christ.**

***Assurance of Blessing**

One **... Give thanks to God who lifts us up with the gift of forgiveness.**

Many **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ**

One **Peace be with you!**

Many **And also with you!**

Poem by St. Francis of Assisi

Our poem this week is a lovely meditation on communion by St. Francis of Assisi. May we open ourselves to be challenged by these words.

Prayer of Illumination

Service of the Word

Reading: John 6:35, 41-51

Sermon

Prayers of the Community

One God of life everlasting,
As Parent, you call us your own, your image-bearers, your beloved children.

**Many Help us to reflect the breadth of your love,
the depth of your mercy.**

One As Teacher, you urge our developing minds to stretch and expand
as we navigate the familiar and the shocking, the palatable
and the painful, the ordinary and the disorienting.

Many Help us to explore with genuine curiosity and imagination.

One As Friend, you see who we've been and who we are, and you love us
through our becoming.

Many Help us to trust that you will not abandon us as we transform.

One As Spirit, you surround us, sweeping through the space between our
relationships.

**Many Help us to sense your presence, as it draws us closer to our
neighbors and to you.**

One As Creator, you employ every color, fragrance, texture, and tone,
ordering the world around us in a most elegant way.

**Many Help us to recognize the beauty of your creation and our
place in its expanse.**

One As Bread, you are provision for the journey, sustenance for the spirit,
nourishment for the body.
Many **Help us to pause along the winding way to be renewed
by your expression of love for us.**

Service of the Table

Offertory

Offertory Song: “O Food to Pilgrims Given” (instrumental), UMH 631

***The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

One The Lord be with you.

Many **And also with you.**

One Lift up your hearts.

Many **We lift them to the Lord.**

One Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Many **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

One At your command all things came to be:
the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns,
the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

Many **By your will they were created and have their being.**

One From the primal elements you brought forth humanity,
and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill.
You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you,
and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Many **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

One Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you

revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

Many Through Jesus we are reconciled; through him we are healed.

One And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

**Many Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

One And so, we who have been redeemed, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts.

.....

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Many We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Invitation to the Table

One Come, for all is now ready.
 We use gluten-free bread and juice at this table.
 Please join us for intinction at the foot of the stairs as you are able.
 Receive the bread and dip it into the cup.
 Communion elements can also be served to you in your seat.
 Those who would like an ecumenical prayer of blessing are invited to come forward to the preacher with your hand over your heart.
 Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at this table where Christ is the host.

Communion Song: “Somos pueblo que camina,” NCH 339

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***Prayer After Communion**

Many Holy God, open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world around us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name. Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread. Accept these prayers and praises, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: “I Know Whom I Have Believed” (v. 1-3), UMH 714**

***Benediction**

***Dismissal**

One Go in peace and live boldly in the Spirit!
Many Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Cover Art: Photograph by Kara Young. Santee Chapel during Easter season 2018. Abundance.

Confession and Assurance: United Church of Christ. "Pentecost 13—August 19," "Pentecost 11—August 5." Worship Ways. http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways.

Poem: "What wonderful majesty" by St. Francis of Assisi, *Poet Seers*, <https://www.poetseers.org/spiritual-and-devotional-poets/christian/st-francis-of-assisi/poems/whatwonderfulmajesty/index.html>

Prayer for Illumination: <https://prayer.knowing-jesus.com/prayer/prayer-for-scriptural-illumination-719>. Gender-inclusive language added.

Communion Liturgy: "Eucharistic Prayer C," from the Episcopal *Book of Common Prayer*, 355-382, modified by the LTS worship team.

Lancaster Theological Worship Teams

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**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

The Worship Team seeks:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference, and challenges the normative.