

with a declaration that whoever eats the bread of His flesh has eternal life. This is the declaration of the covenant meal. (The wedding feast in Jesus' time was used to secure the vows of the covenant relationship being established in marriage) This, eating of His flesh, was the sign and seal of all the promises Jesus was making. This promise was for them and for us. Jesus established the seal of the covenant proclaiming the truth, the wisdom, the knowledge of God in everything He stated. Jesus was not speaking of the Lord's Supper, but the idea of a banquet as the seal of the covenant. A meal is good for those who are starving. Before obtaining wisdom through feeding on the Word, we were eternally dead (having starved to death) without the knowledge of God.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

¶ O Lord, You are the Light of Your people, the Salvation of the world, the strength of those whom You have called. We thank You for the gift of Your Word and for the gift of faith by which we are able to acknowledge all You have done for us in our creation, rebirth and continued sanctification. Listen now to the prayer of Your New Testament people, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

O Lord, You are mindful of all of our necessities, giving both the righteous and the ungodly their daily bread. Help us understand the sensible nature of Your providence and enable us to receive Your benefits with thanksgiving. We ask You to bless all the things You continue to give us each succeeding season. We especially ask Your favor and blessing that these gifts from You would support our bodies and show forth Your Love and care. Keep us in health so that we are able to serve You in this life and in the world to come, through He Who is the Bread from Heaven even Jesus Christ our Savior.

Cause the Gospel to be preached in all lands and in every tongue. Maintain Your Church as the place where Christ dwells in the true faith. Bless our schools, that all teachers may both acknowledge and serve You, and that all the students may find in You the treasure of life and truth. Give wisdom and counsel to all who exercise authority for the government of this land. Enlighten all who have authority over us, so that we may worship and serve You without hindrance, and live in peace and righteousness.

To all who suffer sickness, pain, disease, affliction, or any adversity of body, mind, or spirit, give the strength and the spirit of the One who taught us to say, "Thy will be done."

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)
In the glorious name of Jesus and for His sake we pray.

© Amen.

PROPER FIFTEEN

Chant Tone



Introit

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.*

His praise endures forever!

Praise the Lord! I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart,* in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

Great are the works of the Lord,* studied by all who delight in them. Full of splendor and majesty is His work.*

and His righteousness endures forever.

He has caused His wondrous works to be remembered;* the Lord is gracious and merciful.

He provides food for those who fear Him;*

He remembers his covenant forever.

He sent redemption to His people; He has commanded his covenant forever.*

Holy and awesome is His name!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son,* and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,* is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.*

His praise endures forever!

(Antiphon, Psalm 111:10;
Psalm 111:1-5, 9)

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, Whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow His steps in the way that leads to life eternal; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Fear the Lord, you His saints,* for those who fear Him lack nothing! Many are the afflictions of the righteous,* but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: In praise and adoration, O Lord, we come before You, our hearts filled with gratitude. Once again Your Almighty power has brought us safely through the night. In You, O Lord, is our trust; You shower down on us Your kindness and mercy. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit that we may readily embrace and ever hold fast to Your Son Jesus Christ. Help us recognize in Him the source of our life. May He abide in us and we in Him. May our faith in Him be reflected in our lives. May everyone, everywhere, come to know Jesus as the only way to salvation. Amen (so be it, Lord.)

THE MESSAGE OF JOHN CHAPTER SIX WAS DIFFICULT TO RECEIVE. Jesus used grammar rules to present information about Himself that was unusual. In John 4:26, Jesus presents Himself as "I AM." In that way, He referred to Himself using the Name God called Himself in Exodus 3:14. Luther said that Jesus was talking about feeding on His Word when He spoke of feeding on His flesh. Jesus used the same grammar (of 4:26) to say, "I AM" and "Bread of Life." It is His flesh and blood that will make us a member of the kingdom. Without His flesh and blood we cannot enter into eternity. Hebrews (10:4,10) tells us that it is not the blood of bulls and goats that takes away sin, but through the body of Jesus we are sanctified. His flesh is Holy, He is God Almighty. Jesus' proclamation of vicarious satisfaction; (that there is only one path to Heaven;) which is through the flesh of Jesus Christ the Lord and Savior, is true. His flesh is made ours through His Love.

THEME OF THE DAY

Fed with the Wisdom of God

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 111:10;) Psalm 111:1-5, 9

Psalm 111 is similar to the historic Psalm of the Day (34,) which is used in our Gradual. We don't think David wrote this on any particular occasion. It is for worship. It is one of the Psalms with a title (in this case, Hallelujah, which we translate, Praise the Lord.) This Psalm accords well with our other lessons to teaches us about true wisdom; the knowledge of God.

COLLECT

John 14:6 is read on Easter 5 of the "A" schedule, and quoted in our prayer today. We are asking that we are able to have Jesus as, the way, the truth and the life, to follow Him into eternal life.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Proverbs 9:1-10

To have wisdom, often means to have a professional knowledge. In Scripture, "wisdom," begins with the knowledge and fear of God and is related to all life being incorporated within a vision of God's law and God's grace. The call to wisdom is a battle between life and death. Wisdom sets up the house, prepares the banquet and invites us to eat. The covenant of gaining wisdom is sealed in the act of coming to a feast. The knowledge of God is sustained by God in the feast of His Word and Sacraments.

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

For a time, David pretended to be crazy. He was afraid of King Saul. This Psalm was written when he stopped pretending and realized that God would keep him safe. We use verses 9 and 19 (for the next seven weeks) to bring us back to our fearless faith which comes to us in the power of Jesus. The use of the word, "fear," in verse 9 is the Old English usage which means, "love and respect."

EPISTLE LESSON—Ephesians 5:6-21

Be careful how you live! Paul is clear about the caution. He wants us to live not as unwise but as wise. Make the most of every opportunity. Live filled by the Spirit. Be careful what goes into your body because it is a precedent of what comes out. Those drunk on wine lose control of their thoughts and actions. They say and do things that they later regret. Paul is admonishing us to feed on Christ, feed on the Word and be filled with God's Spirit. The banquet of the seal of the covenant of salvation is precious and satisfying to us in flesh and spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON—John 6:51-69

At this point, Jesus provoked a fresh concern among the people. The concern shifted from the person of Jesus, to His flesh. When He first declared Himself the "Bread of Life" they grumbled. He met their grumbling