

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 22, 2021

The First Reading

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel:

"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region 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."

Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

After the Reading, the Reader says The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God

Psalm

Psalm 34:15-22

- 15 The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, *
and his ears are open to their cry.
- 16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, *
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.
- 17 The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them *
and delivers them from all their troubles.
- 18 The LORD is near to the brokenhearted *
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.
- 19 Many are the troubles of the righteous, *
but the LORD will deliver him out of them all.
- 20 He will keep safe all his bones; *
not one of them shall be broken.
- 21 Evil shall slay the wicked, *
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.
- 22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants, *
and none will be punished who trust in him.

The Second Reading

Ephesians 6:10-20

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil

day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

After the Reading, the Reader says The Word of the Lord
People Thanks be to God

Sequence Hymn

The Gospel Reading

John 6:56-69

Before proclaiming the Gospel, the Priest says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This 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." He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

When many of his disciples heard it, they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. So Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Jerry Ritchie
 4th: Harper Martin
 7th: Pete Litterski
 8th: Austin Keith
 13th: Donna Richardson
 14th: Margie Litterski
 20th: Ella Cammack
 21st: Carli Lara
 22nd: Monika Henry
 27th: Ayedin Nail
 29th: Paige Lindsey Jackson
 30th: Jason Richardson
 31st: Kari Dickson
 31st: Jim Watson

New Church Directory

Please help us update our information and pictures so we can publish a current directory. **TODAY** Christina Richardson will be in the church office to take you and/or your family's picture either before or after the service. Other picture days available, **August 29th**. If you would like to send your own picture and contact information, please E-mail christina@smaalongview.org

Volunteers Needed

We need one or more volunteers to train/help in Streaming, Sound Board, & Worship Tech. If you would like to Volunteer, please contact Bryan White, 903.757.2990 or by email: b4hntn@cablelynx.com

Longview Community Ministries

They are the principal organization in Longview that helps people with all sorts of emergency services, including food. They have asked us to help by donating canned fruits and vegetables during this season when food bank donations are down, and the need for services has increased. We will have a basket in the Narthex for ongoing donations. Please donate if you are able.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers in the sanctuary, the flower dedication forms are in the entryway.

NEXT Sunday's Servers (08/29)

Cameras & Streaming: Danielle Martin
Danny's Team: Melinda Smith
Eucharistic Ministers:
Greeter: Catherine White
Lector: Becky Supercinski
Ushers: Stan Williams
Vestry People: Frank Supercinski, Andy Sanders
Worship Tech: Laura Brown

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- Pepe Forina (in a coma with COVID)
- Harold Hoffmeister (heart attack)
- Greg Caldwell (in ICU with COVID)
- Jeff Hahne
- Cindy Caldwell
- Rebecca Sweets
- Jim & Martha Berry
- Regina
- Aaron, Roni, & Tom
- Lorraine
- Pete & Margie

Other Prayer Requests:

- Joe McClellan (to adjust to Hawkins Creek Assisted Living Facility)

Bereaved family of:

- Roel "Roy" Martinez (Adoptive Father of Joshua Martinez)
- Tim Raif (Son of Ron & Gayle Raif)

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering. Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

| DATE | GIVING | BUDGET | ABOVE/BELOW |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 07/25/21 | \$2,117 | \$2,946 | -\$829 |
| 08/01/21 | \$931 | \$2,946 | -\$2,015 |
| 08/08/21 | \$768 | \$2,946 | -\$2,178 |
| 08/15/21 | \$8,848 | \$2,946 | \$5,902 |
| YTD TOTALS | \$79,583 | \$97,233 | -\$17,650 |

This Sunday's Servers

Cameras & Streaming: Danielle Martin
Danny's Team: Mary Lynn Dawes
Eucharistic Ministers:
Greeter: Roxanne Brink
Lector: Harrison Brown
Ushers: Bryan White
Vestry People: Roxanne Brink, David Brown
Worship Tech: Amy Brown

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church
 The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll
 Email: mothertracey@smaalongview.org
 Church Website: smaalongview.org
 Phone: (903) 759-2051