

## The Alleluia Verse

We have a formal dialogue with the Word of God during our worship service. First, we raise our concerns for the day to God in the Prayer of the Day. Then God responds to our prayer in the First Reading that is usually from the Old Testament. We pray in response to God's Word with the Psalm that's usually from the Old Testament Book of Psalms. Then we hear God's Word again in the Second Reading that is usually from an epistle to the Church in the New Testament. And we respond to the Second Reading with the Alleluia Verse.

Read John 6:60-71.

- There were many people who followed Jesus of their own volition. Only the 12 apostles were actually chosen by Jesus to follow him.
- Jesus just finished teaching that anyone who eats his flesh and drinks his blood will have eternal life.
- Many of his followers found this hard to understand and they knew that Jesus' teachings could be dangerous and set people against them.
- Jesus knew that some of those who were following him would eventually betray him (like Judas Iscariot).
- When Jesus would not back down from his teachings, many of his followers stopped following him.
- After they left, Jesus asked his 12 chosen disciples if they also wanted to stop following him.
- In verse 68, Simon Peter answered faithfully, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."
- This passage is where our faithful response to God's Word comes from in the Alleluia Verse.

In the Alleluia Verse, our response of faith is praiseful.

“Alleluia” is the Aramaic word for “Praise the Lord!” (Aramaic was the language spoken by Jesus.)

“Hallelujah” is a Hebrew pronunciation for “Praise the Lord!” (Hebrew was the original language of the Old Testament.)

So in response to hearing the Word of God in the Second Reading that informs us how to live as the Church, we praisefully respond as faithful disciples of Christ by singing, **“Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.”**

Here at Community Lutheran Church, we not only sing the Alleluia Verse after the Second Reading, but also after the Gospel Reading. The Gospel Reading is when we hear and read how God’s Word is revealed to us through Jesus himself. And again, we respond faithfully to Jesus that we will follow him no matter what since he has the words of eternal life.

Close this devotion with your own personal prayer. (Please pray for friends, family, Community Lutheran Church, those among us suffering and recovering from Covid-19, and an end to this pandemic.)