

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Eating at the Table with Jesus

June 7, 10, 11, 2023

AS WE GATHER

“Thou spreadst a table in my sight” (*LSB* 709:5). With poetic words, English hymn writer Henry W. Baker puts into verse one of the most beloved images of Psalm 23. The table that the Lord sets for His people is one of generosity and grace. The first time a table is mentioned in the Bible is in conjunction with the great reunion that the ruler Joseph in Egypt has with his estranged brothers who had come from their home in Canaan to ask for help in a time of famine. The Book of Genesis records that Joseph not only welcomed his brothers and saw to it that they were fed but also directed that “portions were taken to them from Joseph’s table, . . . And they drank and were merry with him” (Genesis 43:34). The Lord’s Table is a place for rejoicing—especially since, as we gather there, we are given a foretaste of the feast to come in our Lord’s eternal kingdom.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.
Romans 11:33, 36

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #915 “Today Your Mercy Calls Us”

Today your mercy calls us To wash away our sin.
However great our trespass, Whatever we have been.
However long from mercy Our hearts have turned away,
Your precious blood can wash us And make us clean today.

Today your gate is open, And all who enter in
Shall find a Father’s welcome And pardon for their sin.
The past shall be forgotten, A present joy be giv’n,
A future grace be promised, A glorious crown in heav’n.

Today our Father calls us; His Holy Spirit waits;
His blessed angels gather Around the heav’nly gates.
No question will be asked us How often we have come;
Although we oft have wandered, It is our Father’s home.

O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,
What should we do without you When heart and eye run o’er?
When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair,
We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song,

People: His praise in the assembly of the godly!

Pastor: Let Israel be glad in his Maker;

People: let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!

Pastor: For the LORD takes pleasure in His people;

People: He adorns the humble with salvation. Praise the LORD!

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

People: Merciful Father, we confess our sinfulness. We are not worthy for you to come among us. We are indeed sinful from our birth and since that time have transgressed against you in thought, word, and deed. Our actions have brought injury to others. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; we have done those things which we ought not to have done. We sincerely repent of our sins. Graciously hear this, our confession, O Lord, and grant us your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit within us, lead us to amend our sinful lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and in hope to the glory of your holy name.

Pastor: Jesus, our Redeemer and God’s greatest gift, promises forgiveness, life, and salvation, and welcomes us to His Table. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
 Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
 We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
 Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav’nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father’s Son, we pray;
 O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
 Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
 Where You in pow’r are seated At God’s right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
 Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
 You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
 In God the Father’s glory. “Amen!” our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, you sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to seek and to save the lost. Graciously open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him by faith that we may feast with Him forever in His kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Hosea 5:15–6:6* (The Lord desires that His people show mercy.) ¹⁵ I will return again to my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face, and in their distress earnestly seek me. “Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. ³ Let us know; let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.” ⁴ What shall I do with you, O Ephraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. ⁵ Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets; I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. ⁶ For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Romans 4:13–25* (An account of the faith of Abraham)

¹³ For the promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” ²³ But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, ²⁵ who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 9:9–13* (Jesus calls Matthew as a disciple.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

⁹As Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he rose and followed him. ¹⁰And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. ¹¹And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²But when he heard it, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³Go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“My God is So Great”

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty,
there’s nothing my God cannot do. (repeat)

The mountains are His, the rivers are His,
the stars are His handiwork, too.

My God is so great, so strong and so mighty,
there’s nothing my God cannot do, for you!

(Repeat entire song)

SERMON HYMN #609 “Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

vv 1-5

Jesus sinners doth receive; Oh, may all this saying ponder
Who in sin’s delusions live And from God and heaven wander!
Here is hope for all who grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

We deserve but grief and shame, Yet His words, rich grace revealing,
Pardon, peace, and life proclaim; Here our ills have perfect healing.
Firmly in these words believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Sheep that from the fold did stray No true shepherd e’er forsaketh;
Weary souls that lost their way Christ, the Shepherd, gently taketh
In His arms that they may live: Jesus sinners doth receive.

I, a sinner, come to Thee With a penitent confession.
Savior, mercy show to me; Grant for all my sins remission.
Let these words my soul relieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Oh, how blest it is to know: Were as scarlet my transgression.
It shall be as white as snow By Thy blood and bitter passion:
For these words I now believe: Jesus sinners doth receive.

SERMON “Feasting at the Table With Sinners”

HYMN #609

“Jesus Sinners Doth Receive”

vv 6-7

Now my conscience is at peace; From the Law I stand acquitted.
Christ hath purchased my release And my ev’ry sin remitted.
Naught remains my soul to grieve: Jesus sinners doth receive.

Jesus sinners doth receive; Also I have been forgiven:
And when I this earth must leave, I shall find an open heaven.
Dying, still to Him I cleave: Jesus sinners doth receive.

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Silence for a time of personal intercession

Pastor: O Lord, you strike down and you heal. Though we justly deserve your wrath for our sin, revive us and raise us up, that we may live before you forever.

People: By your Spirit, lead us in our daily lives that we may fulfill the calling you have given us in Christ to live as His disciples.

Pastor: Almighty God, you desire steadfast love and that your people would know you, trust you and follow Jesus as Lord. Bless pastors, teachers, missionaries and all church workers, especially our Together in Mission partner, Pastor Chuck Ferry and family, as they serve in Christ's kingdom.

People: By the working of your Spirit, may your Word would sound forth in abundance. Open the ears of all who hear to acknowledge your steadfast love.

Pastor: Father in heaven, by your grace Abraham did not weaken in faith but trusted your promises. Strengthen parents to be diligent in raising children in the faith and persist in their callings and train their children in your Word and ways.

People: Defend parents from discouragement and apathy. Bind families together in love, grace and harmony in Christ; and convince them that you are able to do what you have promised.

Pastor: Creator of all things, you call into existence what does not exist and govern it for good. Remember those you have given authority among the nations, that the laws they administer might reflect your order and maintain peace.

People: Endow our national, state, and local leaders with wisdom and discernment, that they may commend what is good and punish what is evil and serve for the common good.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, your Son came to heal the sick and forgive sinners. Hear our prayers for those who suffer in any way including Caleb, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Joyce, Guy, Marga, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Tom, Jill, Paulette, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Jerry, Shirley and Sarah..

People: Restore them according to your gracious will, give them patience and perseverance in their time of trial, and strengthen their faith in your faithfulness and love.

Pastor: God of grace, blessing, and comfort, we give you thanks for the gift of marriage and especially for Roger and Nancy celebrating 57 years of marriage. Bless also Marilyn as she remembers her beloved husband, Jack, who now dwells with you.

People: Give us hearts of thankfulness and faith to rejoice in your blessings and find comfort in your promises.

Pastor: Father in heaven, you made childless Abraham the father of many nations when his body was as good as dead, giving him faith to trust in the son of promise, even Jesus Christ.

People: Strengthen our faith also to trust your promises despite our weaknesses and troubles.

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son ate with sinners to call them into righteousness and now feeds us in His Supper, that we might be forgiven.

People: Prepare our hearts to partake of the Sacrament of the Altar with penitence and faith, and so depart in righteousness and peace.

Pastor: Holy Father, receive our thanks for your kindness to Abraham, Sarah and all the saints who have gone before us. Preserve us in faith and in righteousness, that we, too, may give you glory now and forever. For into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #628 "Your Table I Approach"

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.

Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

9 continued

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

HYMN #570 "Just as I Am, Without One Plea"

Just as I am, without one plea But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; Thy love unknown Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

HYMN #643 "Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Sent forth by God's blessing, Our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.

The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

10 continued

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev'ry day life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living With praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, that the lips that have sung your praise in the sanctuary may glorify you in the world, that the ears that have heard the voice of your songs may be closed to the voices of clamor and dispute, that the eyes that have seen your great love may also behold your blessed hope, that the tongues that have confessed your name may ever speak the truth, and that the bodies of all who have tasted of your Son's living body and blood may be restored to newness of life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Pastor: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #533 "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure"

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
God-head, humanity, union supernal,
O great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome Him now in this fast fleeting hour!
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

Preacher & Liturgist on Wednesday
Liturgist on Saturday & Sunday
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Katie Scepanski, Dalen Heinzen, Don Horn
Jo Bender

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