

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Many Are Called, Few Are Chosen

October 14 & 15, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Food is at the center of our lives—we either live to eat or eat to live, but we always eat. In the parable of our Lord today, we hear the kingdom of God compared to a wedding feast. When those invited proved to be unworthy, God called every kind of person from the highways and byways of life and equipped them with a wedding garment as well as an honored place at His table. This feast is the promise of Isaiah the prophet, the joyful refrain of the beloved Psalm 23, and the promise still given and kept by our Lord as we gather around His holy body and blood. But the Meal is not simply about the eating, but the food—Christ’s flesh for the life of the world and His blood that cleanses us from all our sin. Because of this, it is the supper of our joy here on earth and the supper of our glory in heaven forevermore.

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.

8:00 & 10:30 PRE-SERVICE BELLS *“On Eagles’ Wings” & “Rejoice and Be Glad”*

WELCOME

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,
but living as servants of God.

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 2:16-17

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #737 “Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing”

Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev’rything, Your portion shall remain.

He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.

Why spend the day in blank despair, In restless thought the night?
On your Creator cast your care; He makes your burdens light.

Did not His love and truth and pow’r Guard ev’ry childhood day?
And did He not in threat’ning hour Turn dreaded ills away?

He only will with patience chide, His rod falls gently down;
and all your sins He casts aside In ocean depths to drown.

His wisdom never plans in vain Nor falters nor mistakes.
All that His counsels may ordain A blessed ending makes.

Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in Heav’n above.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

People: my soul shall exult in my God,

Pastor: for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

People: He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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. Merciful Father, in your mercy you have visited us with your Son that we might know the joy of His salvation. Grant that this joy we know in Christ may be with us in every circumstance and be fulfilled in us when we are delivered through death into everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 25:6–9 (On this mountain the Lord will make a feast for all peoples and will cast off the veil of death forever.)⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations.⁸ He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.⁹ It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4–13* ("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.")⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.⁵ Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;⁶ do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.

¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 & 10:30 CHOIR ANTHEM *“Here I Am Lord”*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 22:1–14* (Many are called; few are chosen.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

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CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Jesus Loves Me This I Know”

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven’s gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.
Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SERMON HYMN #813 “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

Rejoice, O pilgrim Throng! Rejoice, give thanks and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong As ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. **Refrain**

With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. **Refrain**

Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng.

Refrain

Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. **Refrain**

At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. **Refrain**

(Rise)

Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. **Refrain**

6

SERMON

“A Grand Wedding Feast”

Matthew 22:1-14

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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.

INSTALLATION OF DEACONESS CAROLE R KING, DIRECTOR OF PARISH MUSIC

SOLO

“For All Who Craft Their Words With Skill”

Judy Duffala

(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.

Heavenly King, your Son, Jesus Christ, purchased the Church with His precious blood. By His righteous sacrifice, we are cleansed of sin and clothed in His righteousness alone.

People: Preserve her in the pure teaching of your Word, in the right use of the Sacraments and in the unity of the faith.

Pastor: Heavenly King, you send out your invitation that all who believe in your Son should take their seats at His feast. By the proclamation of your Church, gather many, however evil they may be, to repent and be saved.

People: Grant us sincere repentance and steadfast faith, that we may be numbered among the multitude at the grand wedding feast at the end of time.

Pastor: Heavenly King, bless all families and the homes in which our people dwell. Grant grace to husbands and wives, that they may love and forgive each other and fulfill their vocations to their children.

People: Grant also that, as your family, we may all faithfully teach and learn the faith.

Pastor: Heavenly King, raise up workers for the harvest field and bless all pastors, teachers, missionaries and church workers who further your kingdom. Bless especially Deaconess Carole King as she is installed as our Director of Parish Music and Pastor Ferry, our Together in Mission partner.

People: Give all your servants joy and peace as they follow the call of Christ.

Pastor: Heavenly King, keep the coming of your Son always at the forefront of heart and mind, even as we pray for those in positions of leadership in this world.

People: Remind us to be subject for Christ's sake to the fleeting powers of this world, and grant us all to live in continual godliness and with the peace that passes all understanding.

Pastor: Heavenly King, our world is filled with warring and strife. Bless and be with all those affected by the terrorist attacks, especially those who lost loved ones.

People: Comfort them, sustain them, and give them hope of life beyond this world in the paradise you have promised.

Pastor: Heavenly King for whom we wait, you bring healing to those afflicted and promise to wipe away the tears from all faces. Bless, heal, and be with Janice, Bill, Marga, Nadia, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, Carol, June, Shirley, Sarah and all who weep here, that at the last they may be comforted, restored and received into the banquet of heaven.

People: During their days of trial, give them patience, endurance and peace through faith in Christ.

Pastor: Heavenly King, you have called home your servant, Pastor Tom Hinz, bringing him to join the saints in heaven. We give you thanks for all the years of his ministry and the 99 years you granted him here on this earth. Bless and be with Cindy Albrecht as she remembers her parents, Del and Marilyn.

People: Comfort family and friends and direct their thoughts to the resurrection of the dead and the life that is everlasting.

Pastor: Heavenly King, you have prepared a table before us in the midst of those who refuse your invitation; thank you for moving us to receive grace, mercy and peace in the body and blood of Christ.

People: Keep your Church unstained by the world, that we may partake of our Lord's Supper worthily, clothed in His baptismal grace.

Pastor: Heavenly King, give us such joy in pursuing what is true, just, pure and worthy of praise that, spurning the temptations of this world, we would suffer no anxiety. Let our trust be placed fully in Christ and let our hope rest in the life of the world to come; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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 #633 "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing"

At the Lamb's high feast we sing Praise to our victorious King.
Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His pierced side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,
Gives His body for the feast-Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword:
Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe. Alleluia!

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas'chal victim, paschal bread; with
sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;
You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days; Three in One, Your name we praise. Alleluia!

HYMN #790 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear Now to His temple draw near, Joining in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen All that is needful has been Sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who has fearfully, wondrously, made you,
Health has bestowed and, when heedlessly falling, has stayed you.
What need or grief Ever has failed of relief? Wings of His mercy did shade you.

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew What the Almighty can do As with His love He befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the Amen Sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him!

HYMN #556 **"Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice"** **v 1-5**

Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, With exultation springing,
And with united heart and voice And holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done, How His right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost Him!

Fast bound in Satan's chains I lay; Death brooded darkly o'er me.
Sin was my torment night and day; In sin my mother bore me.
But daily deeper still I fell; My life became a living hell,
So firmly sin possessed me.

My own good works all came to naught, No grace or merit gaining;
Free will against God's judgment fought, Dead to all good remaining.
My fears increased till sheer despair Left only death to be my share;
The pangs of hell I suffered.

But God had seen my wretched state Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great, He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart; He did not choose the easy part
But gave His dearest treasure.

God said to His beloved Son: "It's time to have compassion.
Then go, bright jewel of My crown, And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free:
Slay bitter death for them that they May live with You forever."

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: 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 #918 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer, Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more:
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Preacher	Pastor Harold Bender
Liturgist	Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Lectors	Elisabeth Matusewic, Debbie Nier, Krystal Wilson
Bell Choir Director	Jodi Drew
Organist	JoLynn Bender