

Welcome to Worship at
Trinity Lutheran Church, Osceola, WI
Pentecost 21 - October 25, 2020

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my Strength and my Redeemer. Amen.

Hymn #414 - *"I Leave All Things to God's Direction"*

**I leave all things to God's direction;
He loves me both in wealth and woe.
His will is good, sure his affection;
His tender love is true, I know.
My fortress and my rock is he:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

**God knows what must be done to save me;
His love for me will never cease.
Upon his hands he did engrave me
With purest gold of loving grace.
His will supreme must ever be:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

**My God desires the soul's salvation;
My soul he, too, desires to save.
Therefore with Christian resignation
All earthly troubles I will brave.
His will be done eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

**My God has all things in his keeping;
He is my ever-faithful friend.
He gives me laughter after weeping,
And all his ways in blessings end.
His love endures eternally:
What pleases God, that pleases me.**

Confession of Sins:

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: **Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace and forgiveness for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lord, have mercy on us!**

P: Upon this your confession, I as a called servant of Christ and His Word announce to you the grace of God, and in the place of and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the Lord of Armies will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of aged wines, with the best cuts of meat, and with the finest wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples, the burial cloth stretched over all nations. He has swallowed up death forever! The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face. He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth. For the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said, "Look, here is our God! We waited for him, and he saved us! This is the Lord! We waited for him. Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!" (EHV)

Psalm 23:

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**The LORD is my 'shepherd,
I shall not 'be in want.**

**He makes me lie down in green 'pastures;
He leads me beside quiet 'waters.**

**He re'stores my soul;
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his 'name's sake.**

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no 'evil,
For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they 'comfort me.**

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my 'enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup 'overflows.**

**Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days 'of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the LORD for'ever.**

**Glory be to the Father and 'to the Son
And to the Holy 'Spirit,
As it was in the be'ginning,
Is now, and will be forever. 'Amen.**

Refrain: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-13

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if anything is excellent, and if anything is praiseworthy, think about these things. The things that you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: Keep doing these things. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord now that you have revived your concern for me once again. Actually, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I lack anything; in fact, I have learned to be content in any circumstances in which I find myself. I know what it is to live in humble circumstances, and I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, while being full or hungry, while having plenty or not enough. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. (EHV)

Verse of the Day: Alleluia. God has saved us from our enemies, and has put those to shame that hated us. You that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord. He is our help and

our shield. Alleluia.

The Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come. “Then he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!’ “But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. The rest seized the king’s servants, mistreated them, and killed them. As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town. “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. Then the king told the servants, ‘Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.” (EHV)

The Apostles’ Creed:

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn #374 - *“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need”*

My shepherd will supply my need -
Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed
Beside the living stream.
He brings my wand’ring spirit back
When I forsake his ways
And leads me, for his mercy’s sake,
In paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death,
His presence is my stay;
One word of his supporting breath
Drives all my fears away.
His hand, in sight of all my foes,
Will still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows;
His oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God
Attend me all my days;
Oh, may his house be my abode
And all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest
While others go and come,
No more a stranger or a guest
But like a child at home.

The Sermon: Matthew 22:1-14
 “Don’t Miss The Banquet”

If you have ever **hosted** a party for a big occasion, you know that it’s a **lot** of work. There’s a lot of **planning** that needs to take place. You have to think about the **location**, the **menu**, the **activities**, the **decorations**, the **guest list**, and on and on. Now, imagine if you put in all that **time** and **effort** preparing to throw a great party, and then, on the day of the event, **none** of your guests decided to show up. You would be **devastated**. That’s the situation Jesus was talking about with members of the Sanhedrin in our sermon text for today. His message to them was

clear: **Don't Miss The Banquet**. And in an **eternal** sense, that same message applies to us **today** as well.

Jesus spoke this parable around the same time as He spoke the **other** parables we've taken a look at over the past few Sundays. It was **Holy Week** - the final days before Jesus' suffering and death on the **cross**. The Jewish religious leaders were exerting an all-out effort to **discredit** Jesus, and to stop Him from gaining an even larger **following**. Jesus spoke to these religious leaders in **parables** to point out their **hypocrisy** and their **foolishness** in light of **God's truth**. This is certainly true of the parable of the **wedding banquet**, which we have before us today.

Jesus said that that kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a **wedding banquet** for his son. We have to understand that this was much more than what we usually think of today as a wedding reception. It wasn't just a nice **catered** dinner on a Saturday night for a few hundred friends. The king's banquet was a whole **series** of special meals. It was a celebration which would go on for a **full week**. The king had pulled out **all** the stops - killing the **best** oxen and the **fattened** calf. All that was left now was for the **guests** to show up, and **enjoy** the party. But that's where this parable takes a strange **turn**. We would **think** that the guests would have been **thrilled** to be heading to the king's palace for this week-long banquet. But when the king's servants went out into the community to announce that the banquet was **ready**, the guests **refused** to come. Even when the king sent out a **second** round of messengers, the people **still** stayed away.

We're told that there were **two reasons** why the people weren't coming to the banquet. Some of the people just didn't **care**. They thought they had **better** things to do. As Jesus said, "*Those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own **farm**, another to his **business**.*" The **second** group of people who wouldn't come were much more **in-your-face** with their refusal of the invitation. They **hated** the king, and they wanted **nothing to do** with his celebration. They even went so far as to **seize** the king's messengers, and **kill** them - actions to which the king **responded** by "*sending his **army** and **killing** those murderers, and **burning** their town.*"

That's pretty **shocking**, but Jesus was explaining the shocking **spiritual reality** which existed in the world at that time. God had sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to **save** the world. In just a few days, His **suffering**, **death** and **resurrection** would put the **finishing touches** on God's plan of salvation. Through the sacrifice of His one and only **Son**, God had prepared a **banquet** of salvation for

His people. It was a banquet of **forgiveness, peace, and eternal life**. God's own people - the nation of **Israel** - had received a **special invitation** to that banquet. For hundreds of years, God had sent **prophets** to them, to **inform** them that He would send the **Messiah**, who would prepare a heavenly banquet of **salvation**. And, yet, when the time actually **came** and the messengers, including Jesus Himself, announced that the kingdom of God had **arrived**, most of the people for whom this banquet had been prepared **rejected** the invitation. They wanted nothing to do with **Jesus** as their **Savior**. Some of them were simply **apathetic** towards Jesus, but others, like the members of the **Sanhedrin**, actually wanted to take the **next** step which Jesus talked about in His parable - they wanted to **kill** the Messenger - an action which would **seal** their own fate. Just as the king in the parable sent out his army to **destroy** those who had murdered his servants, God's judgment would **also** come to those who had rejected and murdered **His Son**.

But that's not **us**, is it? We would **never** turn away God's invitation to the banquet of salvation. Or **would** we? Remember, not everyone in the parable who rejected the king's invitation did so out of absolute **hatred** for the king. Some were simply **indifferent**. Is there a possibility that we might treat God's Word and His Gospel promises with a similar kind of **indifference**? I think there is. Perhaps one of the greatest spiritual problems in our world today is that of **apathy**. God **prepares** His rich banquet of salvation for us, **invites** us through the Word and the Sacrament, and people respond with, "**Whatever**. I don't care. There are more **important** things to worry about. We have to think about the **pandemic**, and the big **election**, and our **finances** and our **families**." But, perhaps what people are **unaware** of, is that when we treat God's message of salvation with such **apathy**, we run the risk of **missing out** on the heavenly banquet altogether.

Thank God that He doesn't **give up** on us. Jesus points out the **persistence** of God's **love** as He **continues** the parable. After the **first** round of invitations was **rejected**, the king didn't **give up**. He sent out **more** messengers to take invitations out to the **street corners**, and to invite to the feast **anyone** who would **listen**. It's interesting that there were **many** people who responded **positively** to this round of invitations. In fact there were **so many** who responded, that the king's banquet hall was **completely full**. But then we hear about **another** problem. Not everyone at the banquet was properly **dressed**. The king noticed at least **one** man who wasn't wearing the **wedding clothes** which he had provided for everyone, and when the king asked the man why he wasn't properly **dressed**, the man had **no response**. So the king threw the man **outside**. He, along with anyone else who wasn't wearing the right clothing, was also going to **Miss The Banquet**.

Of course, Jesus wasn't using this example to teach the members of the Sanhedrin the importance of always **dressing your best**. The picture is of the banquet of **salvation**. And the point is, if we're going to take part in **that** banquet, there's only **one way** to get in. Nobody is going to be able to **sneak in** the side door of heaven. We must be wearing a **perfect** robe of righteousness - the righteousness of **Jesus** - righteousness which He freely **provides** to all those who put their trust in **Him** for salvation. That's what it takes to enjoy the **eternal banquet** of heaven.

Are **we** wearing the right clothing for this banquet? Wearing the right clothing means first of all **despairing** of our **own** ability to stand before God dressed in our **own** righteousness, because even if we would devote our life to all kinds of **good causes**, and even though we would try to live out each and every day in the **best** possible way - when we would stand before God on the Last Day, we would still be covered with **sin**. The only way we can enter the banquet is by being covered with the perfection of **Jesus**. By faith in Jesus as our Savior, we can stand before God without fear. Very shortly we'll be singing the hymn - "*Jesus, **your** blood and righteousness My **beauty** are, my glorious **dress**; Mid flaming worlds, in **these** arrayed, With **joy** shall I lift up my head.*" Covered with the perfection of **Jesus**, we can look forward with all **certainty** to enjoying the wonderful banquet of **heaven**, which God has prepared for us.

That's **good news**, and right now, good news is in **short supply**. But, knowing that we have eternal life in **heaven** waiting for us, is better than knowing that we've been invited to the **governor's** mansion, or to the president's inaugural **ball**. We have been invited to a banquet in the mansions of **heaven** - a banquet which lasts **forever**. **Don't Miss The Banquet**. God graciously continues to **invite** us to be a **part** of that banquet through His Holy **Word**. Don't treat God's invitation as though it's not a big deal. Don't allow a single day to go by without **thanking** God for the love He has shown in **securing** our eternal salvation. And let's make sure we're always wearing the **right clothes** for the banquet by making faithful and frequent use of **God's Word** and the **Lord's Supper**, for the strengthening of our **faith** in Jesus. And while we're at it, let's not be satisfied to attend the banquet **alone**. Let's extend God's invitation to everyone we can, so they can learn about God's love for them, and look forward to spending an eternity at the great heavenly banquet **with us**. It's the one thing we **don't** want to miss, and by God's grace, **We Won't Miss The Banquet**. Amen.

Prayers:

Heavenly Father, we confess that we have often failed to **prepare** ourselves for fighting the good fight of **faith**. We have often failed to make Your **love** for us the **motivating** force in our lives. We have neglected Your holy **Word**, through which You make our faith **live** and **grow**. Time and again we have failed to **carry out** the good intentions of our new man, obeying instead the **evil** desires of our **flesh**. We have turned to **golden calves**, and have failed to put our complete trust in **You**. But even though we have **sinned** against You, You continue to be full of **mercy**. **Forgive** our sins, and **preserve** the faith of Your children, whom You have redeemed with the blood of Your Son.

Lord Jesus, precious Savior, we thank You for that **sure promise** of a crown of **life** for all who put their trust in **You**, and who do not **fall** before the assaults of the devil, the world, and our flesh. Bless us each with the gift of Your **Holy Spirit**, that He may **strengthen** us, and arm us for **battle** against the forces of evil. **Rescue** those who are already in the grip of Satan. **Reclaim** the erring. Preserve, comfort, and build up Your Church.

O Holy Spirit, make us ever mindful of our spiritual **enemies**, who try to put to death the **new** man within us. Help us to **overcome** those enemies through Your **Word**, and to remain **steadfast** in our **faith**. Give us the **wisdom** to **know** when we are being tempted, and the **grace** to **resist** those temptations. Don't allow us to be influenced by the moral **pollution** of the world around us, but rather, help us to make the treasures of **heaven** the treasures of our **souls** - setting our minds on things **above**, where Christ dwells in His glory. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer:

**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.**

Hymn #376 - “Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness”

**Jesus, your blood and righteousness
My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Mid flaming worlds, in these arrayed,
With joy shall I lift up my head.**

**Bold shall I stand in that great day -
Who can a word against me say?
Fully through you absolved I am
From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.**

**Lord, I believe your precious blood,
Which at the very throne of God
Forever will for sinners plead,
For me - e'en for my soul - was shed.**

**Lord, I believe were sinners more
Than sands upon the ocean shore,
You have for all a ransom paid,
For all a full atonement made.**

**When from the dust of death I rise
To claim my mansion in the skies,
E'en then this shall be all my plea:
Jesus has lived and died for me.**

**Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.**

P: Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace, according to Your Word, for my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel. 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 Blessing:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn #409 - *“Come, My Soul, with Every Care”*

**Come, my soul, with ev’ry care;
Jesus loves to answer prayer.
He himself bids you to pray
And will never turn away.**

**You are coming to a king -
Large petitions with you bring,
For his grace and pow’r are such,
None can ever ask too much.**

**With my burden I begin:
Lord, remove this load of sin;
Let your blood, for sinners spilt,
Set my conscience free from guilt.**

**Lord, your rest to me impart;
Take possession of my heart.
There your blood-bought right maintain
And without a rival reign.**

**While I am a pilgrim here,
Let your love my spirit cheer;
As my guide, my guard, my friend,
Lead me to my journey’s end.**

**Show me what I am to do;
Ev’ry hour my strength renew.
Let me live a life of faith;
Let me die your people’s death.**