

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Most Gracious Host
October 11 & 12, 2014
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

Being called a gracious host or hostess is a compliment, for it means you care about your guests and see that they are well cared for. It means you know how to throw a good party! Today's Scripture readings talk a lot about parties, and in each instance, the Lord is the host. Our Old Testament lesson talks of "a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine" (*Isaiah 25:6*). The Psalm praises our Shepherd, saying, "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies" (*Psalm 23:5*). In our Gospel text, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to "a king who gave a wedding feast for his son" (*Matthew 22:2*). Our God is the most gracious of hosts as He cares for us with His own body and blood at His Table as a foretaste of the feast to come!

WELCOME

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:22-24, NIV)

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

+ PREPARATION +

OPENING HYMN #710 "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want"

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.

My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet, will I fear no ill;
For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes;
My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me;
And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

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

People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 23:1-3*

Pastor: The LORD is my shepherd;

People: I shall not want.

Pastor: He makes me lie down in green pastures.

People: He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Lord God, in your Word, you instruct us, saying, "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". However, our thoughts and actions are often far from pure and soiled with sin. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean from birth and in need of your forgiveness. Thus, we take refuge in your mercy, seeking your grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice." Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead 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.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:

Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, gracious host, in Baptism, you clothe us with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all our sin. Grant that we remain firm in the faith anticipating the day we enjoy the eternal banquet that you have prepared for all who believe in your name; 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* (Death is swallowed up forever.)

On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine-- the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation."

EPISTLE *Philippians 4:4–13* ("Rejoice in the Lord always.")

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 22:1–14* (The wedding feast of the king)

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come. "Then he sent some more servants and said, 'Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.' "But they paid no attention and went off--one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. "Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. "Then the king told the attendants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "For many are invited, but few are chosen."

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #408 "Come, Join in Cana's Feast"

Come, join in Cana's feast Where Christ is honored guest.
He welcomes all who come to taste The wine His hands have blessed.

The old wine now is gone From jars that stand apart.
No longer can it satisfy The yearning, thirsting heart.

But Christ, The Word made flesh, Bids water turn to wine.
He fills our empty cups again With grace and truth divine.

Come, friends, and share the feast; Here drink the wine supplied
By Him who is both guest and host – For us, the crucified.

(Rise)

For now He lives and reigns Through all eternity
With Father, Spirit, Three in One, The glorious Trinity.

SERMON *“The Greatest of All Wedding Feasts”* *Isaiah 25:6-9; Matthew 22:1-14*

(Rise)

APOSTLES’ CREED *(found on the inside back cover of the hymnal)*

(Be seated)

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our attendance book** 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 book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register for names of those to greet after the worship service.

(Rise)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray to our God who has promised in Christ to hear and answer our prayers. Lord Jesus Christ, as you sacrificed your life on the cross for your bride, the holy Christian church, grant us all to be faithful to you.

People: Preserve among us the pure teaching of your Word, faithful use of your Sacraments and the unity of faith, so that we will participate in the grand wedding banquet in your kingdom.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we pray for pastors, missionaries, teachers, composers and hymn writers, and all who bear witness to faith in Jesus Christ,

People: grant them wisdom in applying the Word of God to our lives and give them strength for their calling.

Pastor: Lord of the nations, we pray for government and leaders, our military and all who protect us, that through their efforts justice, peace and order would be maintained in our land.

People: Inspire them to use their God-given authority to serve, to protect their citizens, and to promote the welfare of our communities and nation.

Pastor: Author of marriage and family, we pray for all married couples, that their union as husband and wife might be a reflection of Christ and His Church.

People: Bless all Christian homes with your presence, making them places of love and forgiveness, joy and peace, and places of refuge in Christ.

Pastor: Lord of life, we pray for all children, that they may be raised in the true faith and stand firm in the face of challenges; we pray also for abused children and battered women, that they might be protected by your holy angels and delivered from their life situations.

People: We pray also for children in foster care, that you would watch over them and that they would be placed into stable and loving households.

Pastor: Ever-present Lord, we pray for faith to rejoice in all things, including sickness, injury, stress and need, remembering especially Gregg, Dorothy, Cindy, Marilyn, Gretchen, Charles, Ray, Heidi, Marion, Jack, Mark, Richard, Virginia, Rosalie and Sarah.

People: Help us to remember that you are always near, so that we need not be anxious about anything.

Pastor: Giver of every good gift, we rejoice with the Baumgart family as they celebrate Ruth’s 88th birthday and Emily’s 26th birthday.

People: We rejoice with the graduating class of Martin Luther for the year 1974, giving thanks to you for the blessing of Christian fellowship and education.

Pastor: Lord of the church, we pray for the growth of the eternal kingdom of God, that through the sharing of the Gospel and the Sacrament of Baptism, unbelieving nations would be brought to the light of Christ.

People: Bless all your children to continue to grow in the knowledge of your holy Word and living in grace and sharing it with others.

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, you have invited us to your wedding feast and prepared us to sit at your table, having clothed us with the robe of righteousness in Baptism.

People: Let no one approach your table clad in the spotted garments of the flesh; and bring us at last to that feast which you have prepared for all people upon that mountain where you have swallowed up death forever,

Pastor: for there your saints ever feast in joy, where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and ever and unto the life which has no end.

People: Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: Amen.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #575 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.

Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain**
His oath, His covenant and blood Support me in the raging flood;

When ev’ry earthly prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain**

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before His throne! **Refrain**

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 #817 “Earth and All Stars”

Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Oh, victory! Loud shouting army! Sing to the Lord a new song!

Refrain: He has done marvelous things. I too will praise Him with a new song!

Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Flowers and trees! Loud rustling dry leaves! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Trumpet and pipes! Loud clashing cymbals! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Harp, lute, and lyre! Loud humming cellos! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

Engines and steel! Loud pounding hammers! Sing to the Lord a new song!
Limestone and beams! Loud building workers! Sing to the Lord a new song! **Refrain**

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to you, almighty God, that in Holy
Communion, you have given us a foretaste of the wedding feast of
heaven. Grant us confidence in the assurance that, clothed in Christ’s
righteousness, we are ready for the wedding feast that 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: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

People: and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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 #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.

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.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Acolytes
Organist
Music Coordinator

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Gregg Stanton
Grant Gundersen, Pam Akey
Sydney Kadolph, Emma Kallas
Roger Gottschalk
Kim Woller