

**St John Center Lutheran Church
East Earl, Pennsylvania**



October 11, 2020
19th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Thomas Darr, Pastor 717-320-3642
Vickie Kissinger, Director of Music, Organist
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INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Olivet"* Lowell Mason

C Please respond to the portions of the service in bold print.

HUM VERSE 1 ONLY

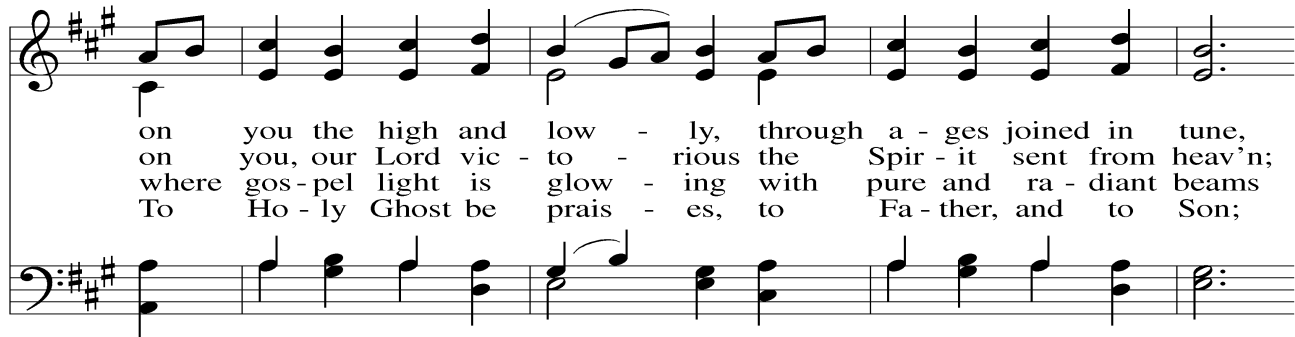
O Day of Rest and Gladness



1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
 2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
 3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n - ly man - na falls;
 4 New grac - es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
 on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
 to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum - pet calls,
 we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
 on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
 where gos - pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
 To Ho - ly Ghost be prais - es, to Fa - ther, and to Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
 and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three - fold light was giv'n.
 and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh - ing streams.
 the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
 Music: ELLACOMBE, M. v. Werkmeister, *Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle*, 1784

THE DIALOG

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.
We bless you and praise your name forever.

You set free those who are bound.
We bless you and praise your name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.
We bless you and praise your name forever.

You provide for our every need.
Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.
We rejoice and bless your name forever.

You bless your people with peace.
We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together. **Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah, the 25th chapter.

¹O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON: PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians, the fourth chapter.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. *Alleluia!*

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY PRE-RECORDED SERVICE ONLY - LBW 429
HUM VERSE 1 ONLY

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

1 Where cross the crowd-ed ways of life, where sound the
 2 In haunts of wretch-ed-ness and need, on shad-owed
 3 From ten-der child-hood's help-less-ness, from hu-man
 4 The cup of wa-ter giv'n for you still holds the

cries of race and clan, a-bove the noise of
 thresh-olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the
 grief and bur-dened toil, from fam-ished souls, from
 fresh-ness of your grace; yet long these mul-ti-

self-ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.
 lures of greed, we catch the vi-sion of your tears.
 sor-row's stress, your heart has nev-er known re-coil.
 tudes to view the strong com-pas-sion in your face.

- 5 O Master, from the mountainside
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;
 among these restless throngs abide;
 oh, tread the city's streets again;
- 6 Till all the world shall learn your love,
 and follow where your feet have trod;
 till glorious from your heav'n above
 shall come the city of our God.

Text: Frank M. North, 1850–1935, alt.
 Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

Offering Moment

Let us pray our offering prayer, to bless the gifts that we continue to give in response to God's gifts to us.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

THE PRAYERS

Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We pray for peace between nations: in our cities; among political rivals; throughout our coming election; between generations; between long-time citizens and new immigrants; in our churches and in our homes. That we may become instruments of your peace, sowing union where there is discord,

we pray to you, O God, our Peacemaker: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for those who are poor: for those who are unemployed; for migrants; for those who are marginalized by prejudice; for orphans; for school children with no digital access. That we may give assistance where there is poverty and need,

we pray to you, O God, our Provider: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for all who are suffering: for those laid low by the coronavirus; for those living with anxiety; for those whose sorrow is known only to you; for those who will die this day; and for those whose names we call out to you here *especially Marie, Carine, Liz, Sally, Cindy, Doris, Bob, Sheila, Deb, Elmo, Mary Jean, Anna, Mary, Catharine, Mimi, Judy, Bev, Jane, Jack, Maudie and those we name before you.* That we may sow hope where there is despair,

we pray to you, O God, our Comforter: **in mercy, hear our prayers.**

We pray, finally for our selves. Strengthen our faith in Christ, and hear our personal petitions. That we may sow pardon where there is injury and love where there has been hatred,

we pray to you, O God, our Healer: **in mercy, hear our prayers.**

We praise you, God most high, for all the faithful who have gone before us into the fullness of your life. That at our end, where there is darkness, we will join in your light forever,

we pray to you, O God, Eternal One: **in mercy, receive our prayers.**

Enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, as we trust in your salvation through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us.

The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen

HUM VERSE 1 ONLY

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,




the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,




the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**Rev. Thomas E. Darr***Organist: Vickie Kissinger***LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE:**

Viewed Online	Parking Lot Attendance	In Church Attendance
46	20	11

THANK YOU

Both Liz and I want to thank you for all of the prayers, the calls, the food and the encouragement during her recovery period. You are such a blessing.

Pastor Tom

WHEN YOU COME

- Your temperature will be taken
- Masks are worn all the time – your hands will be sanitized as you arrive.
- Pick up your own bulletin and communion cup if a communion Sunday and go to your seat.
- Deposit your offering in the plate as you come in the sanctuary.
- Please sit in designated pews observing the 1-2-3 rule. 1 family per pew, 2 couples per pew or 3 individuals per pew.
- There will be no congregational singing at the in person service. The music listed is for the pre-recorded service only.
- There will be no sharing of the peace.
- Remain seated for entire service.
- We can accommodate no more than thirty people in the sanctuary. If you are planning on worshipping from home, or from the parking lot, please let me know. My email is revdrrthms@gmail.com or call me at 717-320-3642.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For those serving in the military... Christopher Buch (Susie Welsh's grandson), Trinity Gilkey (Bauer's), Jeremy Reifsnnyder (J Reifsnnyder), Richard Witwer (Maudie Witwer's grandson)

For those with ongoing illness... Cindy Petersheim, Jack Weaver

For the homebound... Mary Martin

For those afflicted with cancer... Sandra Bair (M Nuessle), Ritch Bedell (Bauer's), Doris Bewley, Ed Carvell (J Oatman), Gail D. (M J Ludwig), Jeff Donahue (P Wallace), Robert Freeman (Mary Hafer), Isaiah Hoar and family (M J Ludwig), Connie Howe (V Haug), Harold Kring, Nate Mohler (Mary Hafer's son-in-law), Randy Royer (V Kissinger), Matt Sanger (T Wentzel), T Simmons, Jr. (Simmons'), Robyn Wiley (K Wallace)

For those facing or recovering from a hospitalization...

For those in need of strength and comfort.. Richard Burkhart, Steve Cammauf (J Kring), Dan Carpenter (B Wallace), Michael Clause, Sierra Cortez (T Wentzel), the Craven family, Liz Darr, Amy DeFalco (J Kring), Sally Dettra, Bernice Dietrich (J Kring), Bob Dettra, Sister Phyllis Enck (D Lorah), Linda Fritz (Kon/Sampson), Darlene Ganse (J Kring), Scott Gockley (C Doman), Norma Good, Don Griffith (Raffauf's), Mary Hafer, Vickie Haug, Allen Kimball (W Kimball), Judy Kring, Deb Lorah, Elmo Lorah, Mary Jean Ludwig, Judy Oatman, Wanda Lutz (T Raffauf), **Anna McComsey**, Catharine Messner, Israel Newswanger (L Burns), Mimi Nuessle, Sheila Good, Andrea Ray (H Kon), Carolyn Seddon (J Kring), Carine Shorr (Darr's), Bev Simmons, Shaun Sitkowski, Tim Stanley (T Wentzel), Tammy Stiffler (Haug's), Lance Stoudt, Jane Sweigart, Carlos Terres (T Weaver), Tammy Weaver, Darlene Wentzel (T Wentzel), Maudie Witwer, Steve Young (T Weaver)

*Underlined indicates names of members of the congregation. **Bold** indicates names added since last week.*

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE please contact Pastor Darr at 717-320-3642 or Alvin McCoy at 610-286-9647.

October 11, 2020

LECTIONARY 28

Justice for All

As we try to make sense of today's unsettling parable, it helps to recall that it was told during the last week of Jesus' life, as the events leading to the crucifixion were already unfolding. The Jews gathered in Jerusalem were celebrating Passover, recalling how God had led them from slavery into freedom—and yet they were living under the oppressive thumb of the Roman occupation.

The wedding banquet of the parable, like the festival of Passover, takes place against a backdrop of exclusion, injustice, and escalating violence. The king of the parable who sends troops out to wage war on those who have spurned his invitation reminds one less of God, who leads us beside still waters, than of Lin-Manuel Miranda's King George III of *Hamilton*, who says, "I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love."

And yet, to a people who are oppressed and calling on God to hold the powerful to account, it is indeed good news that God will not be silent and passive forever. It matters to God how we treat one another.

In the liturgy of Holy Baptism, we are asked three times to renounce sin and the devil and all the forces that defy God, rebel against God, and draw us away from God. This renunciation can feel awkward to a people steeped in grace, yet it is critical to recognize and name the fact that there are forces in this world that would pull us into complicity with systems that deny life and liberty to our neighbors.

The God of Matthew's parable is the same God of Psalm 23, the one who walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. Jesus reminds us how passionately God resists the powers that deal in fear and death. Instead of claiming that God is on our side, we are invited to join God's side through our own dedication to justice for all of God's people.