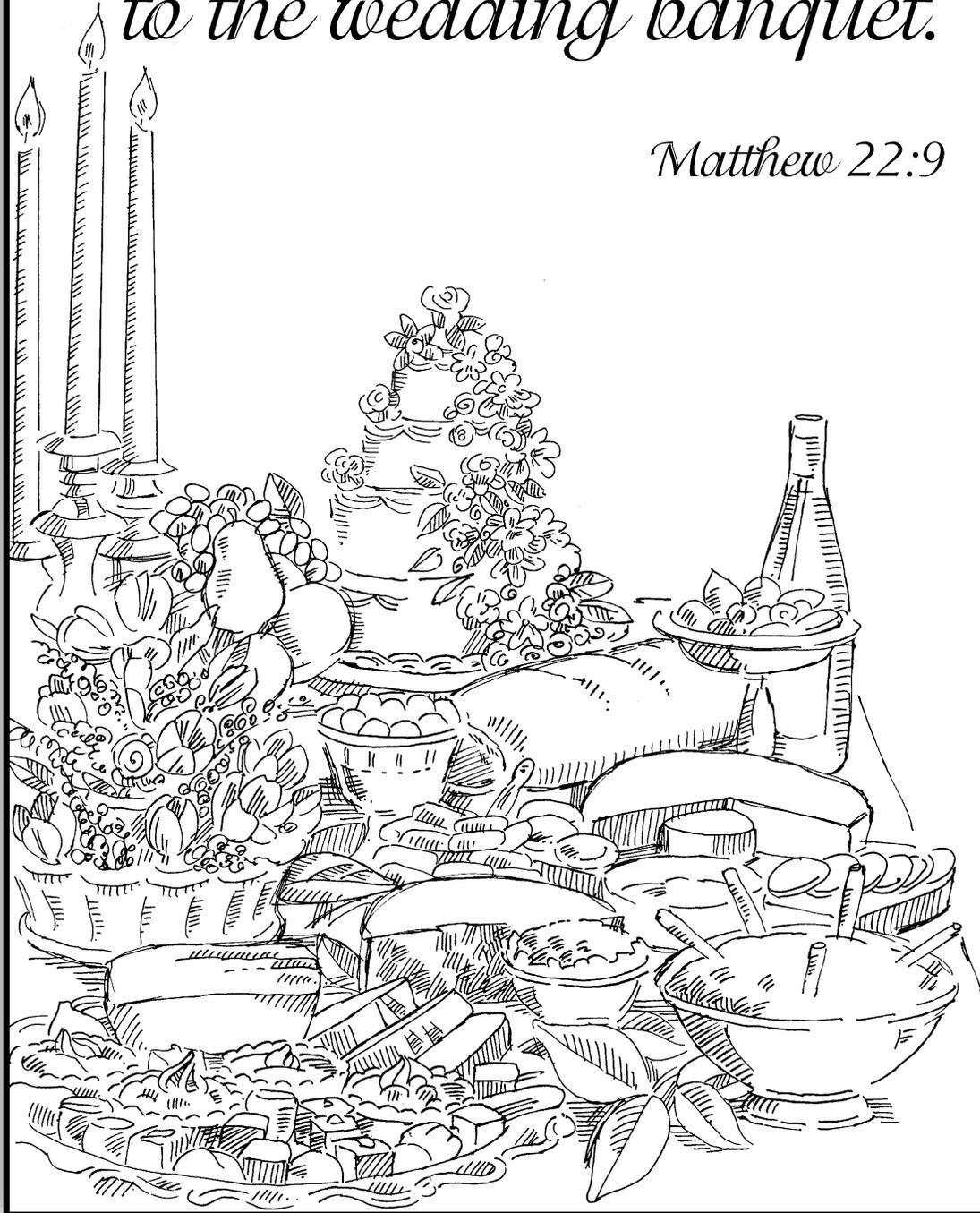


ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

*Invite everyone you find
to the wedding banquet.*

Matthew 22:9



Pentecost 19

October 11, 2020

One in Christ Lutheran Parish

Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshipping with us this morning.

We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, who excites us with the mission of the church - to be witnesses and share the "good news" to all people.

EMPOWER AND SEND US!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We would never refuse an invitation to feast at Christ's table would we? What could possibly be more important?

Women (child's perspective) Hey Mom and Dad, don't forget I need a lift to the ball game –I know it's Sunday but you promised you'd come and watch if I made the team.

Men (teenage perspective) James is coming over on Sunday to install my new computer game - who wants to stay and play it with us?

Women (young adult perspective) I'll have to go shopping on Sunday - I've been too busy all week and I need a new outfit for Bill and Sue's wedding.

Men (middle aged adult perspective) I've had to bring some work home so I'm going to be busy all weekend - no interruptions!

All (Older Adult perspective) That's a better weather forecast after all the rain we've been having - looks like Sunday will be a good day to get the garden cleaned out and fall yard work done. Be ready for winter.

Jesus criticized those who said 'yes' to him with their lips but denied him with their deeds.

Forgive us, O God, when we use feeble excuses to evade following in Christ's footsteps.

The invitation to us is an invitation of grace - those who eventually sat down at the banquet could never have expected such an invitation.

Forgive us, O God, when we trivialize the gracious invitation to share your life in Christ - when we expect you to be there for us - but fail to respond to your call on our lives.

Help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders a ready response to the call to follow Jesus, even when that means putting our personal agendas on hold.

And as the apostle Paul beseeched the Philippians:

Fill us with the desire to think about whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, whatever is excellent and worthy of praise for only then can we hope to have the same mind in us that was in Jesus in whose name we pray. Amen

EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS

Paul urged those he loved to stand firm in the Lord and to rejoice in the Lord always. We are empowered to do these things “because God has forgiven us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. God set this aside, nailing it to the cross.”

Thanks be to God!

OPENING SONG “*We Plow the Fields and Scatter*”

*We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand,
who sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain.*

Refrain All good gifts around us are sent from heav'n above.

We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.

*You only are the maker of all things near and far.
You paint the wayside flower, you light the evening star.
The winds and waves obey you, by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children, you give our daily bread. Refrain*

*We thank you, our creator, for all things bright and good,
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food.
No gifts have we to offer for all your love imparts,
but what you most would treasure our humble, thankful hearts. Refrain*

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

SHARING THE PEACE – *Give somebody a call today.*

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God...”

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the
Father. Amen.*

*Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God’s people on earth.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

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.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

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.**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **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 the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

SONG OF THE DAY *“Now We Join in Celebration”*

*Now we join in celebration
at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber,
clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence,
putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us,
with his very life to feed us.*

*Lord, as round this feast we gather,
fill our hearts with holy rapture!
For this bread and cup of blessing
are for us the sure possessing
of your loving deed on Calv'ry,
of your living self, our vict'ry,
pledge of your unfailing presence,
foretaste here of heav'nly gladness.*

*Lord, we share in this communion
as one fam'ly of God's children,
reconciled through you, our brother,
one in you with God our Father.
Give us grace to live for others,
serving all, both friends and strangers,
seeking justice, love, and mercy
till you come in final glory.*

Text: Joel W. Lundeen Text © Joel W. Lundeen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

BLESSING

THREE-FOLD AMEN

SENDING SONG *"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"*

*God, who stretched the spangled heavens infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space:
we, your children in your likeness, share inventive pow'rs with you;
great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.*

*We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined pow'r,
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.*

*As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew:
children of creative purpose, serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise; each endeavor well begun;
great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.*

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

Please place your gifts in box, send them to the parish office, or use Tithe.ly (electronic giving).

Postlude



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Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 11, 2020

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.