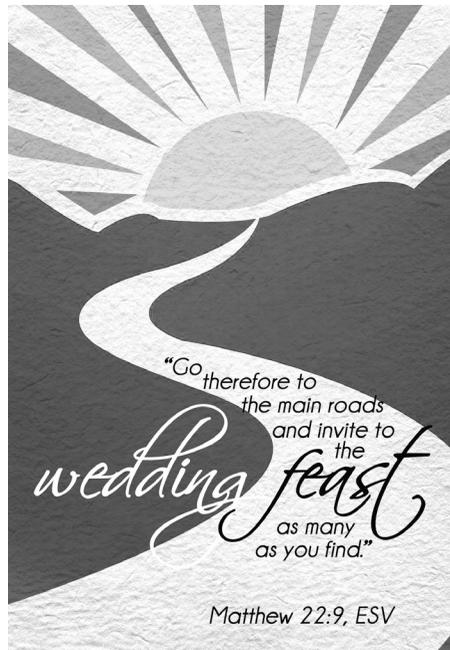


THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

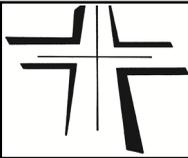
October 25, 2020

Worship Focus

**The Parable of the Wedding Banquet – God Invites
Unworthy Sinners to Participate in His Blessings**



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Order of Service for TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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✠ Gathering ✠

OPENING HYMN

385 – Chief of Sinners Though I Be



1 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Je - sus shed his
2 Oh, the height of Je - sus' love, High - er than the
3 On - ly Je - sus can im - part Com - fort to a
4 Chief of sin - ners though I be, Christ is all in
5 Strength - en me, O gra - cious Lord, By your Spir - it



blood for me, Died that I might live on high,
heav'ns a - bove, Deep - er than the depths of sea,
wound - ed heart: Peace that flows from sin for - giv'n,
all to me. All my wants to him are known;
and your word. When my way - ward heart would stray,



Lives that I might nev - er die. As the branch is
Last - ing as e - ter - ni - ty, Love that found me—
Joy that lifts the soul to heav'n, Faith and hope to
All my sor - rows are his own. Safe with him in
Keep me in the nar - row way; Grace in time of



to the vine, I am his and he is mine!
won - drous thought!— Found me when I sought him not.
walk with God In the way that E - noch trod.
earth - ly strife, I a - wait the heav'n - ly life.
need sup - ply While I live and when I die.

INVOCATION

Minister The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Congregation **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

M We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: **A** - **men.**

✘ The Word ✘

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9

All people are invited to the eternal feast of the LORD, where only the best is served and troubles are a thing of the past.

ISAIAH 25:6 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.

⁷ On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.”

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 4:4-13

Even though Paul was in prison, he could put aside his anxieties and urge his fellow believers to rejoice.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² 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. ¹³ I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

The kingdom of heaven is likened to a wedding banquet that is spread and announced by the lavish grace of God.

MATTHEW 22:1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ “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.’

⁵ “But they paid no attention and went off--one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.

¹³ “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.’

¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!



HYMN OF THE DAY

380 – Lord, 'Tis Not that I Did Choose You



1 Lord, 'tis not that I did choose you; That, I
 2 It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my
 3 Praise the God of all cre - a - tion; Praise the



know, could nev - er be, For this heart would
 dark - ened heart and mind, Else the world had
 Fa - ther's bound - less love. Praise the Lamb, our



still re - fuse you Had your grace not cho - sen me.
 yet en - thralled me, To your heav'n - ly glo - ries blind.
 ex - pi - a - tion, Priest and King en - throned a - bove.



You re - moved the sin that stained me, Cleans -
 Now I wor - ship none a - bove you; For
 Praise the Spir - it of sal - va - tion, Him



ing me to be your own; For this pur - pose
 your grace a - lone I thirst, Know - ing well that,
 by whom our spir - its live. Un - di - vid - ed



you or - dained me, That I live for you a - lone.
 if I love you, You, O Fa - ther, loved me first.
 ad - o - ra - tion To the great Je - ho - vah give.

Text: Josiah Conder, 1789–1855, alt.

Tune: O DU LIEBE MEINER LIEBE (87 87 D) *Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz*, Basel, 1745, alt.

✠ Sermon ✠

Matthew 22:1-14

Come to the Feast!

Sermon notes:

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**C 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.**

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT and MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

We praise you for every grace and blessing.

Strengthen your Church in all the world. Let your comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

We bring you our requests for the various structures of our society. Bless our national, state, and local governments.

Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship.

Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of your created order.

Give us teachers and students who pursue excellence.

Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and with the faith that you will respond for our welfare.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.



*We have
waited for him,
so that he might
Save Us.*

ISAIAH 25:9, NRSV

SERMON HYMN

730 – Blessed Are They

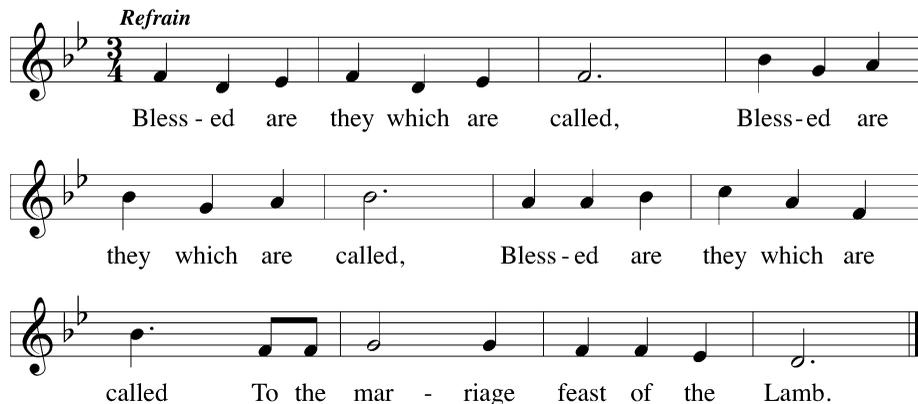
Text: Luke 23:42; texts from Revelation adapted Larry L. Fleming, 1936–2003, alt.

Tune: BLESSED ARE THEY (77 78)

Text, Tune: Larry L. Fleming, 1936–2003 © 1996 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), a division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

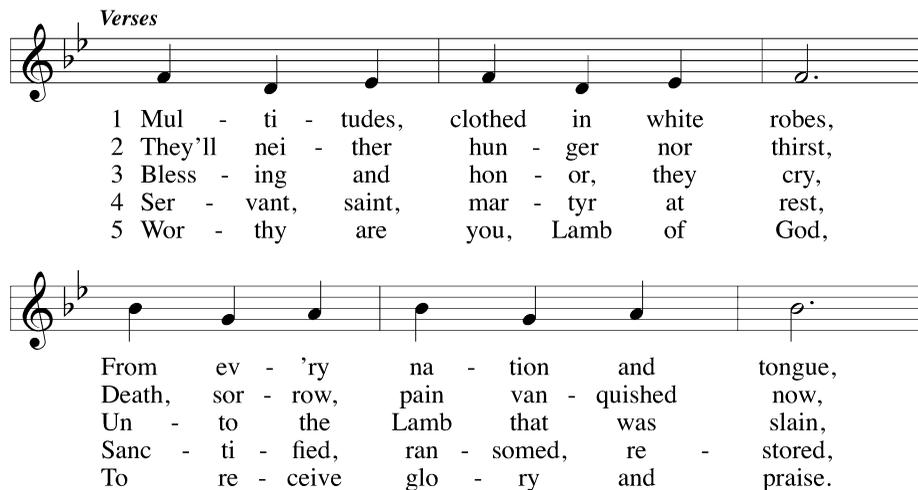
*This hymn echoes the song of victory sung by the saints both now and in eternity.
Take special note when the REFRAIN is sung.*

Refrain



Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless - ed are
they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are
called To the mar - riage feast of the Lamb.

Verses



1 Mul - ti - tudes, clothed in white robes,
2 They'll nei - ther hun - ger nor thirst,
3 Bless - ing and hon - or, they cry,
4 Ser - vant, saint, mar - tyr at rest,
5 Wor - thy are you, Lamb of God,
From ev - 'ry na - tion and tongue,
Death, sor - row, pain van - quished now,
Un - to the Lamb that was slain,
Sanc - ti - fied, ran - somed, re - stored,
To re - ceive glo - ry and praise.



Stood be - fore God and the Lamb At the
 God wipes all tears from their eyes By the
 Re - deem - ing us with his blood In the
 Thun - d'rous - ly sing a new song Of the
 Al - le - lu - ia and a - men! For the



mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Verse 2*
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Refrain*
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Verse 4*
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Refrain*
 mar - riage feast of the Lamb. *to Refrain*

✘ Sending ✘

PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

BLESSING

M Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
 Live in harmony with one another.
 Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: A - men. A - men. A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

327 – God Be with You till We Meet Again



1 God be with you till we meet a - gain, By his
2 God be with you till we meet a - gain, 'Neath his



coun - sels guide, up - hold you, With his sheep se - cure - ly
wings pro - tect - ing hide you, Dai - ly man - na still pro -



fold you— God be with you till we meet a - gain.
vide you— God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Refrain



Till we meet, Till we meet, Till we



meet at Je - sus' feet. Till we meet, Till we



meet— God be with you till we meet a - gain.

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828–1904, abr., alt.

Tune: GOD BE WITH YOU (98 89 with Refrain) William O. Tomer, 1833–96.

*After worship, please feel free to greet your neighbors OUTSIDE,
keeping in mind the social distancing recommendations of six feet spacing.*