



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026
8:00 AM Traditional Worship

Harvest Fest

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Michelle Bolstad
Lector: Greta Hanson **Acolyte:** TBA
Ushers: Jim Lunde, Myron Sime & Gary Gullickson
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen.

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: We confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: Amen.

Stand

HYMN: “All Are Welcome” #641 ELW vss. 1, 2 & 5

vs. 1: Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

vs. 2: Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain...*

vs. 5: Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed

as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain...*

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE: page 120 ELW (*front of the hymnal*)

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have Mercy

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the lord.

C: Lord, have mercy

L: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord,

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: page 121 ELW (*front of hymnal*)

**Refrain: 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. *Refrain...*

**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. Refrain...**

**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. Refrain...**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

Sit

READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹⁻⁵ God, you are *my* God. I celebrate you. I praise you. You've done your share of miracle-wonders, well-thought-out plans, solid and sure. Here you've reduced the city to rubble, the strong city to a pile of stones. The enemy Big City is a non-city, never to be a city again. Superpowers will see it and honor you, brutal oppressors bow in worshipful reverence. They'll see that you take care of the poor, that you take care of poor people in trouble, provide a warm, dry place in bad weather, provide a cool place when it's hot. Brutal oppressors are like a winter blizzard and vicious foreigners like high noon in the desert. But you, shelter from the storm and shade from the sun, shut the mouths of the big-mouthed bullies. ⁶⁻⁸ But here on this mountain, God-of-the-Angel-Armies will throw a feast for all the people of the world, a feast of the finest foods, a feast with vintage wines, a feast of seven courses, a feast

lavish with gourmet desserts. And here on this mountain, God will banish the pall of doom hanging over all peoples, the shadow of doom darkening all nations. Yes, he'll banish death forever. And God will wipe the tears from every face. He'll remove every sign of disgrace from his people, wherever they are. Yes! God says so! ⁹ Also at that time, people will say, "look at what's happened! This is our God! We waited for him and he showed up and saved us!

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia!" page 124 ELW

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Sit

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

¹⁻³ Jesus responded by telling still more stories. "God's kingdom," he said, "is like a king who threw a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out servants to call in all the invited guests. And they wouldn't come! ⁴ "He sent out another round of servants, instructing them to tell the guests, 'Look, everything is on the table, the prime rib is ready for carving. Come to the feast!' ⁵⁻⁷ "They only shrugged their shoulders and went off, one to weed his garden, another to work in his shop. The rest, with nothing better to do, beat up on the messengers and then killed them. The king was outraged and sent his soldiers to destroy those thugs and level their city. ⁸⁻¹⁰ "Then he told his servants, 'We have a wedding banquet all prepared but no guests. The ones I invited weren't up to it. Go out into the busiest intersections in town and invite anyone you find to the banquet.' The servants went out on the streets and rounded up everyone they laid eyes on, good and bad, regardless. And so the banquet was on—every place filled. ¹¹⁻¹³ "When the king entered and looked over the scene, he spotted a man who wasn't properly dressed. He said to him, 'Friend, how dare you come in here looking like that!' The man was speechless. Then the king told his servants, 'Get him out of here—fast. Tie him up and ship him to hell. And make sure he doesn't get back in.' ¹⁴ "That's what I mean when I say, 'Many get invited; only a few make it.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: “As We Gather at Your Table” #522 ELW

**vs. 1: As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through
this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.**

**vs. 2: Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life;
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife.
Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave;
may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.**

**vs. 3: Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast
where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy,
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.**

APOSTLE’S 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 INTERCESSION

P: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence

P: Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers

and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of creation,

C: you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” #547 ELW

**Vs.1: Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave. The supper is ended.**

Oh, now be extended the fruits of this service in all who believe.

**The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all. Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us to work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**Vs. 2: With praise and thanksgiving to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face— our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring, embracing God's children, the whole human 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.**

POSTLUDE