



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2026
9:15 AM Worship Lite

Harvest Fest

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Michelle Bolstad

Lector: Marti Conant **Acolyte:** Josie, Borchert, Eve Conant

Ushers: Derek Zielsdorf

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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

GATHERING SONG: "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.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Oh, Sing to the Lord" #822 ELW vss. 1, 2 & 5

vs. 1: Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song. (3X)

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

vs. 2: For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders. (3X)

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

vs. 5: For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia! (3X)

Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

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.

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” #172 ELW

**Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

The Gospel is announced...

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

Narrator: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!’

Congregation: 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.**

Narrator: 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.

Congregation:¹¹⁻¹³ **“When the king entered and looked over the scene, he spotted a man who wasn’t properly dressed.**

Narrator: 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

CHILDREN'S WORD

THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: "Bind Us Together" #748 WOV vss. 1 & 2

**Refrain: Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together,
Lord; bind us together in love.**

**Vs. 1: There .. is only one God. There .. is only one King.
There .. only one body; that .. is why we can sing: Refrain...**

**Vs. 2: You are the family of God. You are the promise divine.
You are God's chosen desire, you are the glorious new wine. Refrain...**

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 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: 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

OFFERING SONG: "Love, Love, Love" #135 The Other Song Book vss. 1-3.

vs. 1: Love, love, love! That's what it's all about!

**'Cause God loves us, we love each other,
mother, father, sister, brother.**

**Ev'rybody sing and shout,
'cause that's what it's all about!**

**It's about love, love, love!
It's about love, love, love!**

vs. 2: Peace

vs. 3: Joy

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.

POSTLUDE

