

Pentecost 19, October 11, 2020, Order of Worship

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship Today's theme of "God's gracious provision" is introduced by the 23rd Psalm: *The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.* Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another:

C: Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ! Led by the Holy Spirit, live now in freedom to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn *Oh, That I Had a Thousand* (public domain) (v. 1, 5) LBW 560, ELW 833
[sing to *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*, LBW 453, ELW 769]

*Oh, that I had a thousand voices to praise my God with thousand tongues!
My heart, which in the Lord rejoices, would then proclaim in grateful songs
To all, wherever I might be, what great things God has done for me!*

*Creator, humbly I implore you to listen to my earthly song
Until that day when I adore you, when I have joined the angel throng
And learned with choirs of heav'n to sing eternal anthems to my king!*

The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. 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. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

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Hymn of Praise *Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heav'nly host, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*

Prayer of the Day: 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 hospitality and righteousness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

A reading from Isaiah, the 25th chapter (25:1, 4, 6-9) Isaiah, writing before the Babylonian Captivity at a time when Jerusalem had been laid waste, portrays a marvelous victory banquet at which death will be swallowed up forever. (In ancient Canaan, death was pictured as a monster swallowing up everyone; this was an image familiar to the Israelites.)

Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. . . . You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in their distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat. For the breath of the ruthless is like a storm driving against a wall and like the heat of the desert. . . . 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. On this mountain (Mt. Zion, Jerusalem) he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. 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." Word of God, word of life.

A reading from Philippians, the 4th chapter (4:4-9) Writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the church in Philippi to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstances. God's peace is with us and binds our hearts and minds together in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known to God. **And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.** Finally, brothers and sisters, 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 these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me (Paul), and the God of peace will be with you.* Word of God, word of life.

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

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter (22:1-14)

Jesus spoke to the chief priests and the Pharisees again in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet, but they refused to come. Then he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and fat calves have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’ But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. Go out to the main streets and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ Those servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe. ‘Friend,’ he asked, “how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ The man was speechless. 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.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Sermon (page 6)

Hymn of the Day ***At the Lamb’s High Feast*** (public domain)

LBW 210, ELW 362

[sing to *Songs of Thankfulness & Praise*, LBW 90, ELW 310]

*At the Lamb’s high feast we sing praise to our victorious king,
Who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierc-ed side.
Praise to him, whose love divine gives his sacred blood for wine,
Gives his body for the feast—Christ the victim, Christ the priest.*

*Now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
You have opened paradise, and your saints in you shall rise.
Father, who the crown shall give, Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, your name we praise.*

The Apostle's Creed

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.

Prayers With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those who are in any kind of need.

Gracious Lord, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others into your bountiful, grace-filled presence.

As creation waits with eager longing for redemption (Romans 8:20), protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters.

Just as you set a table in the presence of enemies (Psalm 23), so bless now the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace may prevail. As this country draws nearer to election day, may all leadership be civil.

Let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill, especially those who deal with the coronavirus. Strengthen doctors and other care workers, and caregivers who see to their needs. Hear our individual prayers for those we know who are in medical need.

When we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all people in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community.

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Grant us your peace at all times.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sharing God's Peace (if you worship alone, add your specific prayers for peace here)

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The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn ***God Be with You Till We Meet Again*** (public domain) ELW 536

*God be with you till we meet again; by good counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.*

Refrain: *Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.*

*God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms around you; God be with you till we meet again. **Refrain***

Benediction:

May God's perfect peace that passes all understanding be with you until next week's worship time.