

# THE 20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2023



Christ Lutheran Church of St. Catharines, ON

140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 1W1  
Church: 905-685-8294  
[www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)

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**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday—9 a.m. – 12 noon  
**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca).  
Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Pastor Todd Hoefts (289-362-0113) [pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoefts@gmail.com)  
**Parish Assistant:** Louise Gondosch (905-329-8579) [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
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**Facebook:** Lisa Gall [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
**Bulletin by email:** [chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:chairman.outreach@christlutheransc.ca)

A recording of Sunday's service will be uploaded to YouTube at:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING\\_TKT19c\\_OIBbMqGwLw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpING_TKT19c_OIBbMqGwLw)

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**Prayer:** O God, whose Almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy and pity, grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS:**

Monday: 1 Thess. 4: 9-12                      Wednesday: 1 John 4: 7-16a                      Friday: 11 Cor. 8: 1-9  
Tuesday: Gen. 4: 2b-15                      Thursday: Deut. 30: 11-14                      Saturday: Acts 5: 1-11

**Musicians:** Music Team  
**Reader:** Tom Kuhl  
**Greeters:** Don & Lois Fretz

**EVENTS THIS WEEK:**

Today: 9:00 - 9:50 am - Coffee Hour  
9:00 - 9:50 am - Sunday School  
9:10 - 9:50 am - Confirmation Class  
10:00 am - Worship  
3:00 pm – 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Worship Service, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hamilton  
Monday: 10-11:00 am – Luther Manor Casual Visiting  
Tuesday: 9:30 – 11:00 am. – Precious Moments  
7:00 pm – Mary Martha (Bazaar Planning)  
Thursday: 10-11:30 am – SOUL  
7:15 pm – Women's Bible Study at Lia's (22 Rampart Drive)  
Saturday: 8:45 am –Harvest Day at CLT Seminary

**Darryl Richard Stefanik—19 February 1958 – 6 October 2023:**

In the sure and certain hope in Christ of the resurrection of the body to life everlasting, Darryl Stefanik passed away peacefully on Friday, October 6.  
In keeping with Darryl's wishes, the family has asked for a Sunday morning funeral service with the Lord's Supper at Trinity at 10:00 on Sunday, October 15, visitation starting at 9:00 am and the committal at Niagara Lakeshore Cemetery following the service. A loving and most dedicated husband to Cornelia for forty-four years; father to Anastasia (Brett) and Franz-Paul (Nechelle) and Pops to Bauer, Beckam, Beau, Jaxon and Xander. Darryl faithfully served as the longest Pastor and Shepherd to the congregation of St. John's Snyder for twenty- six years and four months from where he retired in 2021. His love and passions also extended to the arts, theatre, tap dancing and mastering the culinary world.

## OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Oct. 8 – Spoken Thanksgiving Day Matins
- Oct. 15 – Creative Communion [The Band]
- Oct. 22 – Divine Service Setting 3 [TLH page 15 style]
- Oct. 29 – Reformation Holy Communion / Confirmation Sunday



### Church news for October!

SOUL Ministries continues on Thursdays: 10 - 11:30 AM

Youth Catechism class continues October 2, 15, & 22: 9:10 - 9:50 AM

Pastor Todd in Luther Manor casual visiting starts Mon., Oct.16: 10 - 11 AM

Youth publicly confess their Baptismal Faith October 29 @ 10 AM



## CHRIST'S CAFÉ

Hope to see you downstairs

9:00 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

for Coffee, Tea & Treats!!

Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact:

Judy Mason 905-641-7546

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We have Preschool in the nursery and Grades 1-6 together. Sunday School is a weekly event from 9:00 - 9:50 a.m. concurrent with **Coffee Hour** --not just for families but a time of sharing for everyone! **TODAY:** Joseph, Jacob's favourite son, despised by his brothers, sold into slavery, attaining success then losing it all to false accusations, being imprisoned, then serving the court of Pharaoh. Through it all God worked His plan for good.

Bible Verse: ***"You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good"*** Genesis 50: 20.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hamilton:** Sunday, October 15, 3:00 pm. You are invited to a Celebration Worship Service at **Redeemer Lutheran Church**, 15 Wexford Ave.S, Hamilton. Rev. Jason Gillard officiating, Rev. Aaron Astley preaching, Carole Pink directing a choir made up of some of our own choir members here, along with a few singers from other sister congregations in area. All are welcome to attend.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY:** **Thursday, October 19, 7:15 pm.** We will meet at Lia's at (22 Rampart Dr). We will be finishing our study on Romans. If you have a suggestion from the "Right Now Media", please let Louise know so we can organize to preview trailers before making a decision.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY:** Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> is Reformation Sunday and the day our Youth will publicly affirm their Baptismal faith in the Rite of Confirmation. Please plan on attending and supporting them as they witness the faith given to them in the waters of their baptism.

**LWML-C Zone/National Events:** You are invited to any or all of the events below.

October 31– Deadline for submission of Mission Grant Proposals. Those mission grants will be voted on at Convention in London, Ontario in July, 2024. Please see Lorraine for more details.

**Mary Martha - Christ Lutheran Events:**

Tuesday, October 17, 7 p.m. — Planning for the Bazaar and flower arrangements.

Tuesday, November 21, 7 p.m. – Packaging *"Warm feet for the Streets"* Care Kits for the "Out of the Cold" program

Saturday, November 25, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm – Christmas Bazaar

Tuesday, December 19, 5:30pm – Advent/Christmas Potluck (blessing) Dinner & Program



# Concordia Lutheran Seminary Guild's

## Annual Harvest Day 2023

Saturday, October 21.

Mark your calendars as we work together to fill up our Food Pantry shelves, gathering in support of the seminary and to spend some quality time with our fellow members and students in God's glory.

Deadline for registration is Thursday, October 12th, 2023

Our meal will be catered by Chef Paul and will feature a buffet of finger foods: veggies, fresh fruit, cheese and crackers, a variety of sandwiches on white and whole bread (egg salad, turkey, Black forest ham, and roast beef), and dessert squares.

The day will be marked particularly by a presentation by our special guest, Rev. Saulo Bledoff. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you all in person this fall as we begin the new academic year!

8:45 am – 9:15 am Registration and Coffee Fellowship begins the day

You can read the Fall Newsletter and get a registration form etc. at this link:

[Seminary Guild Newsletter 2023-09 \(2\).pdf](#)

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[Seminary Guild Newsletter 2023-09 \(2\).pdf](#)





CLUB ROMA

# G.NOCCHI NIGHT

HOMEMADE ITALIAN GNOCCHI

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**OCTOBER 27th, 2023**  
4 - 7 pm

EAT IN OR TAKE OUT  
HOMEMADE SAUCE & MEATBALLS FOR SALE  
CROSTOLI FOR SALE (\$10 PER PLATE)

**HOMEMADE ITALIAN GNOCCHI**

Drop by for some traditional homemade gnocchi!  
Casual dinner with gnocchi or penne, meatballs, salad, rolls, coffee and cash bar!

Adults - \$20 Gnocchi / \$14 Penne Child 5 - 10 - \$9 Under 5 - FREE






Gemini Room - Club Roma - 125 Vansickle Rd. St. Catharines, ON - 905 682 7621

## FELLOWSHIP

### EVENT:

If you are interested, please add your name to the Narthex sign-up sheet by October 15 so we can reserve tables.

**Payment is due at Club Roma. We're planning to meet at 5:00 p.m., and hope you can join us.**

For details call Judy 905-641-7546 or Marge 905-646-0790

**Ever think about the future of your congregation?** Pilgrim congregation in Hamilton (1054 Upper Sherman Ave.) is hosting a convocation for area congregational pastors, leaders, and interested parties to talk about the future of our congregations and about providing pastoral services moving forward. It will include a presentation by Regional Pastor Bublitz and a time for sharing our thoughts. ***That's Saturday, November 4, from 9:00 to 12:00 noon***". You are welcome to attend. However, we really need to know you will be coming, so ***please RSVP to [pastor@walrath.ca](mailto:pastor@walrath.ca) by Sunday, October 29,*** so that we can make arrangements. Please note: any retired pastor/church worker and invested member of lay leadership or parishioner is welcome to attend.



## CHRISTMAS URN WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 16, 2023

at

"The Watering Can"  
(3711 King Street, Vineland)

5:30 pm: Fellowship

6:30 pm: Workshop - Starts Promptly

**\*\*\*TRADITIONAL URN\*\*\***

- make your own through step-by-step instructions
- Bring your own wine or other beverage (goodies supplied)

**Cost is \$75.00 (SOUL Fundraiser)**

Secure your spot by giving your registration money to Wendy Shook (905-380-6544) by Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup>!  
*Friends are welcome to join us!!*



## CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH PICTORIAL CHURCH DIRECTORY

Please sign up at the back of the church for the day and time that best suits you:

- Tuesday, November 21
- Wednesday, November 22
- Thursday, November 23
- Friday, November 24

**\*\*\*Each photographed family receives a FREE DIRECTORY.\*\*\***

**NEEDED: Men's shoes and boots.** The Niagara Mobile Closet is in need of men's shoes and boots for the homeless. Please drop off in the box at the back of the church. Thank You!

<b><u>Last Sunday Attendance:</u></b>		<b>Oct. 1st, 2023</b>	<b>Attn: 10 a.m. – 91</b>	<b>SOUL:</b>	
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Weekly Need</u></b>	<b><u>Last Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>Year To Date</u></b>	<b><u>+ or - (--)</u></b>
Current	297,841.00	5,840.02	2,948.00	163,812.80	(65,295.66)
LCC Missions	17,000.00	333.33	195.00	13,270.00	193.08)
Property Improvement:			15.00	5,248.00	



## “WARM FEET FOR THE STREET”



### The LWML / MARY MARTHA

are again filling warm socks for the “Out of the Cold” program at their November meeting.

### Contributions of any of the following would be most appreciated:

- Large, warm socks
- Toothpaste (small)
- Lip balm
- Hand or Foot warmers
- Conditioner (travel size)
- Shampoo (travel size)
- Deodorant
- Bars of soap (travel size)
- Hand lotion (travel size)
- Plastic Band-aids
- Small packages of Kleenex
- Hats
- Scarves
- Warm Gloves

There’s a box at the back for your donations.

For more information, please contact Wendy Hyatt or Paytra Schurmann-Smith

### Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Ameer lost his first tooth last Saturday, so in November he will be a real six year old! Asser loves to play with the stray cats that wander around almost everywhere there in Greece. The family is getting excited about coming to Canada, and just awaiting the final documents. A small house has been found and we are in the process of signing the lease.

Please keep everything in prayer.

Ivy Parkhouse has compiled a list of things needed for each room. We have had offers of furniture that need to be confirmed. However, at the present Ivy is asking for things for the kitchen and bathroom. She has the list, so please contact her about any donation you may have to give, and she will check it off the list and record your name. You may call her at (905-935-6960). Sue Honey will be compiling a list of staples needed for preparing meals. Once we have a date for their arrival she will put out a list and request. Thank you again for all your support, Your committee, Ivy Parkhouse, Howard Bogusat, Sue Honey, Tim Reck, Lorraine Kaija, Pastor John



# CREATIVE COMMUNION

THE 20<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 15, 2023 + 10 AM Worship

## GATHERING

BEGINNING SONG *"All Things Are Ready, Come!"* [Tune: I Love Your Kingdom]



**1 All things are ready come! Come to the supper spread;**



**Come, rich and poor, come old and young, come, and be richly fed!**

**2 All things are ready come! The door is open wide;  
O feast upon the love of God, for Christ His Son has died!**

**3 All things are ready come! Tomorrow may not be;  
O servant, come, the Saviour waits this hour to welcome thee!**

Words & Music: Albert Midlane & Aaron Williams, 1762 reprinted from [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)

## CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
**call upon Him while He is near.**

Let all lovers of sin reject their ways  
**and the unrighteous move beyond their own thoughts.**

Turn back to the Lord, who is full of mercy;  
**to our God who will generously forgive.** [Brief prayerful silence]

O Lord God, gracious Father,  
**we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry, we wish to repent and live new again. Have mercy on us according to Your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin. Renew a right spirit within us and restore us to the joy of your salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of all mercies cleanse you from all sins and restore you in His Image to His praise and glory. So in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in His stead, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## SPOKEN KYRIE--PRAYING FOR MERCY

O Lord, have mer-cy on us;  
O Christ, have mer-cy on us;  
O Lord, have mer-cry on us, and give us Your peace. Amen.

## HYMN OF PRAISE

### *"Lord I Lift Your Name On High"*



Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your prais-es.  
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.  
You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth  
to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,  
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

Text: Rick Founds, b. 1954

Music: Rick Founds

Text and music © 1989 Maranatha Praise, Inc., admin. Music Services

LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME  
PM

<https://treehouseministries.com/worship/september-22-2022>

## GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Merciful Father and God of all people, Your arms reach out to embrace all who call upon You. Teach us as followers of Your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that Your name may be known through the earth; we ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE

**Old Testament:** *Isaiah 25:6-9*

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. 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. It 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. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle:** *Philippians 4: 4-9*

[St. Paul writes:] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving 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 honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**SPOKEN GOSPEL VERSE:**

**Alleluia! Great is your faith! May it be done for you as you believe! Alleluia!**

**The Holy Gospel: *St. Matthew 22:1-14***

**The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter:  
Glory to You, O Lord.**

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.”’ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. “But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding

garment?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.” This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED:

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by Whom all things were made. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and was made man. And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL SONG: *“Here Is Bread”*

CCLI Song # 983717  
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 CCLI License # 775293



1. Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us.  
 2. Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, He is with us.  
 3. Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, He is with us.



Break the bread, drink the wine, Christ is with us here. here.  
 Know His grace, find His peace, feast on Je - sus fied.  
 We'll pro - claim, 'til He comes, Je - sus cru - ci



In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup there's life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment,



by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here. here.

## MESSAGE

**OFFERINGS** *are gathered*

## PRAYERS

The Lord is near; he is with us to give us his favour. Let us put our worries aside and, with prayer and thanksgiving, let us make our requests known to God.

Gracious Father: praise be to your blessed name for your mercy and kindness to us. You have come to us, full of grace and truth. Before the foundation of the world you chose as your own, to be holy and blameless in your sight. You adopted us as your children through Jesus Christ. This was your pleasure and will, and we in turn thank and praise you.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

How wondrous is your holy church, composed of redeemed sinners like us. Bless your church, so that she may shine with your Son's light in this world. Revive and refresh us by your Holy Spirit so that we can confess your name before others, pray fervently for our neighbour, and demonstrate your love through good works. Be with all pastors, church workers, parishioners, congregational leaders and members in this land, so that they can speak your word in truth and comfort and care for the people in need of hope. Guide them, protect them, and help all to work together in your name.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

How blessed we are to enjoy the freedoms and prosperity of this country. Bless this land, all who live in it, all who visit it, and all who lead our nations affairs. Give us a love of truth and justice. Help all citizens to serve their neighbour through their vocation. Help those who are unemployed or whose work is difficult or dangerous or stressful. Strengthen all families and the bond of marriage. Give all children and young people a renewed respect for their parents, and guide all parents in raising their children.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

How great is your power that you guide the nations of the world. Continue to curb evil and bring oppression to an end. We pray especially for [current conflicts]. Be the God of hope and healing for those in distress pain or anxiety, [especially.]

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Father, you have chosen us to receive the peace that only you can give. Guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and hear the prayers we offer in his name. **Amen.**

## THE SACRAMENT

# HOLY HOLY HOLY

Carl Tuttle © 1985 Los Angeles, CA

1. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high -  
2. Glo - ry, glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of  
est; Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high -  
kings; Glo - ry, glo - ry, Glo - ry to the King of  
est. kings. Lord, we lift up Your name,  
With hearts full of praise; Be ex - alt - ed, O  
Lord my God, Ho - san - na in the high est.

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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom....*

## WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying: "Take, eat; This is My + Body which is given for you, this do, in remembrance of Me. In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying "Drink of it all of you, this cup is the New Testament in My + Blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

# LAMB OF GOD

"The Lamb, the Lamb"

© 1982 Coleman

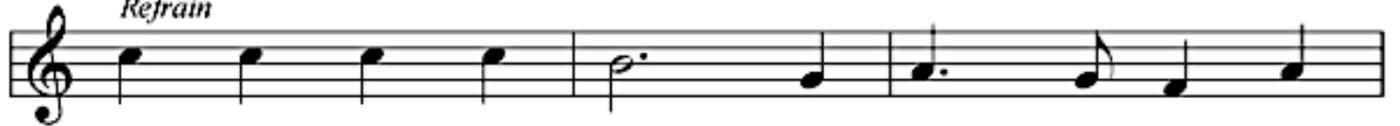


1 The Lamb, the Lamb, O Fa - ther, where's the sac - ri - fice?  
2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One per - fect fi - nal of - fer - ing.



Faith sees, be - lies God will pro - vide the Lamb of price!  
The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heav'n His praise to sing.

### Refrain



Wor - thy is the Lamb whose death makes me His



own! The Lamb is reign-ing on His throne!

Text and tune: © 1987 and 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005782

<https://www.gracelutheranracine.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/547-The-Lamb.pdf>

## HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

For those who have need, please feel free to stand at the rail if kneeling is difficult. The common cup and trays of individual glasses are available. Gluten free wafers are also available. Light purple glasses of Communion wine mixed with water are in the centre ring of the silver trays.

## COMMUNION HYMNS:

"My God, Your Table"

[Rockingham Old]



My God, your ta - ble now is  
Oh, let your ta - ble hon - ored  
Drawn by your quick - 'ning grace, O  
Nor let your spread - ing Gos - pel



spread. Your cup with love does  
be, And fur - nished well with  
Lord. In count - less num - bers  
rest, Till through the world your

o - ver - flow; May all your  
 joy - ful guests; And may each  
 let them come And gath er  
 truth has run, Till with this

chil - dren here be led, And  
 soul sal - va - tion see, That  
 from their Fa - ther's board The  
 Bread shall all be blessed Who

let them your sweet mer - cies know.  
 here its sa - cred pledg - es tastes.  
 Bread that lives be - yond the tomb.  
 see the light or feel the sun.

Text: St. 1-3: Philip Doddridge, b. 1702-1751, alt.; St. 4: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.  
 Tune: ROCKINGHAM OLD, LM; Edward Miller, 1731-1807; Harm. by Samuel Webbe, 1740-1816

**“Be Glorified”**: <https://www.firstpreswh.org/daily-devotional/in-my-life-lord-be-glorified-hymn-468>

1 In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.  
 2 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.  
 3 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied; be glo-ri - fied.

In my life, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.  
 In our song, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.  
 In your church, Lord, be glo-ri - fied to - day.

**In this Bread, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.  
 In this Wine, Lord, be gloried today.**

**In this Meal, Lord, be glorified; be glorified.  
 As we meet, Lord, be glorified today.**

## “Come and Praise The Lord Our King”

Source unknown  
*Unison*

MICHAEL'S BOAT 7 4 7 4  
Traditional melody



Ref. Come and praise the Lord our King, Al - le - lu - ia,  
1. Christ was born in Beth - le - hem,  
2. He grew up an earth - ly child,  
3. Je - sus died at Cal - va - ry, Al - le - lu - ia,  
4. He will cleanse us from our sin,  
5. We will live with Him one day,



*D.C. Refrain*  
Come and praise the Lord our King, Al - le - lu - ia.  
Son of God and Son of Man,  
Of the world, but un - de - filed,  
Rose a - gain tri - um - phant - ly, Al - le - lu - ia.  
If we live by faith in Him,  
And for - ev - er with Him stay.

[https://hymnary.org/text/christ\\_was\\_born\\_in\\_bethlehem\\_alleluia](https://hymnary.org/text/christ_was_born_in_bethlehem_alleluia)

## “Softly & Tenderly”

[www.Hymnary.org](http://www.Hymnary.org)



1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,  
2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,  
3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,  
4. O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,



Call - ing for you and for me; See, on the por - tals he's  
Plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and  
Pass - ing from you and from me; Shad - ows are gath - er - ing,  
Prom - ised for you and for me; Though we have sinned he has



wait - ing and watch - ing, Watch - ing for you and for me.  
heed not his mer - cies, Mer - cies for you and for me?  
death - beds are com - ing, Com - ing for you and for me.  
mer - cy and par - don, Par - don for you and for me.

Come home, come home, Ye who are  
wea-ry, come home; Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,  
Je - sus is call - ing— Call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Come Home". It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics "Come home, come home, Ye who are". The second staff contains "wea-ry, come home; Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,". The third staff contains "Je - sus is call - ing— Call - ing, 'O sin - ner, come home!'". The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and slurs. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4.

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909; vss. 1, 2, 4, tr. by E. L. Maxwell; vs. 3 tr. by Pedro Grado, 1862–1923, adapt. by H. C. Ball  
Tune: THOMPSON, 11 7 11 7 with refrain; Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909

POST COMMUNION SONG & PRAYER *"Song of Simeon"*

1. The lands that long--- in dark - ness lay,  
Now have be - held---- a heav' - nly light; ----  
Nat-ions that sat--- in death's cold shade----  
Are blest with beams---- di-vine - ly bright.

**2. Jesus, our Holy Lord, shall sit, high on His father David's throne;  
Who crushed His foes beneath His feet, and reign to ages yet unknown.**

*Isaac Watts, 1707; O Waly Waly Appalachian Folk Melody  
[https://hymnary.org/tune/o\\_waly\\_waly](https://hymnary.org/tune/o_waly_waly)*

We pray: Lord God, in this Sacrament you have placed into our open hands the body and blood of Christ. Open not only our hands, but our hearts also, so that we recognise your goodness, count all things loss in comparison with you, and desire to be renewed in Your image until we see You face to face in Glory; We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

Go in peace. Rejoice in the Lord and serve Him with the blessing and power He freely gives.  
Thanks be to God.

May the Almighty God, the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you now and always. Amen.

### CLOSING HYMN: "Blessed Assurance"



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sa-vior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove e-choes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sa-vior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sa-vior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915  
Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

ASSURANCE  
9 10 9 9 and refrain

**Rev. Todd Hoeffs**

**PENTECOST 20**

**Matthew 22:1-14**

**“Dinner’s Ready, Come & Get It!”**

**October 15, 2023**

My parents cringed when they saw a wedding invitation in the mailbox.

Unless it was immediate family [that they liked], they wished the invite never arrived.

Why? I asked. [I loved the glitzy way wedding invitations looked.]

“Cuz when you get one, you gotta give a gift!” “Then we’re going!!!” I asked with loud happy voice! “No, Todd, we’re not going -- but ya have to give a gift cuz you got invited.”

An obligation they obviously did not like. Maybe some of you received an invitation you did not want. Or maybe you held a party and had a bunch of people you did not want to come.

Certain people crimp our in-crowd ideals. We crave cadres or community.

Cliques are neat and tidy, we all nod our heads and allow people to do as they please.

God offers community by communing with each one of us. That’s His desire.

His sole motivation for sending Jesus, for creating a wedding feast like the one Matthew writes about. The Gospel of Jesus is the best gift you can’t even give away.

God has always had a very hard time giving away His Son. No one craves Jesus.

We know hunger pains. We know sadness. Spiritual hunger and spiritually sad pain we don’t know. Gathering together as the Body of Christ in this community is supposed to be about feasting. The Gospel is free and it is freeing. It frees you from needing to sin [even though we will over and over] And frees you to live in Jesus as He lives in you.

He is our Lord and our brother. But no matter who you are, at some point in life,

We hitch our wagons onto a religion, or some laws, or commandments, obligations, duties –

These are so much for appealing. And yet in all four Gospels, our life in Christ is described 15 different times as a banquet, a wedding, a dinner, the marriage feast of the Lamb. Wedding etiquette in Jesus’ time involves invites and bargaining.

Poor city life as many of His listeners know are overworked and underpaid.

Life is busy and burdensome. Weddings last many days and you stay for all of it.

Entire communities can be invited. Your own neighbours and distant family.

Those you huddle close to when the Roman authorities make life bad. People need a good reason to miss work and family time and party all week. So it’s common for people to make excuses. Work, death, business. All legitimate excuses in their culture.

What’s missing is the Hebrew Matsa – negotiating. The lavish banquet given for his son’s wedding, The fattened calf slaughtered and roasted, The wine, the rich foods –

All ready – That is supposed to entice the guests to come.

They don’t give this meal any attention. Their response is so quick you wonder if they heard the King’s description. They just won’t do it. They have forgotten that God feeds them for a purpose: so they can be strong in order to care for the weak.

So they can be a manna society in which the common good takes precedence over individual good. So they can be the people God freed them to be in the Exodus so long ago. They have forgotten that these things matter to God, and that that is good news.

The King here in this story is God the Father, And His Son is Jesus, the story teller.

The invited guests are believers. The children of Israel and the new Israel, all whom God calls His own in His Son. Hence, the wedding feast. Servants of the King are patriarchs, prophets,

all who carry the Word to the people. As you know, most received dislike, some even death. As much as you may not want to go to a wedding when we are invited, I don't think we'd kill the mail person who delivers the letter. This is where story and truth overlap. The clear message is the God Who loves His people reject Him, His Son, His feast. Those who kill the messengers get destroyed themselves. This part is extreme, but noteworthy. The people and city they live in is destroyed. What places in Biblical history get destroyed!? Those who reject God and His Word of promise. It's a relevant comment by our Lord on the reason why faith is all that matters. Sodom & Gomorrah got wiped out because they raped people for profit, They did not have faith in God and got so full of themselves they lacked hospitality. And yet Jesus says it will be better for them in the end That those who say they believe but do not follow Christ. Faith is simple. It is a gift. It is all that's needed. Those INVITED are not worthy. Any religious leader and follower in Jesus' presence that day Who work against His message and His Father Are the invited The children of God And they are UNWORTHY. Unworthy in Hebrew culture is an item that weighs nothing. They are filled with nothing. They trust in nothing of God. An item weighing nothing is of no value and is discarded. The meal is ready. The King needs guests. Look out in the highways and byways. This is the place where the herald John the Baptizer already made road ready. The path is clear. The crooked ways are straight. Invite all those who willing to come and eat! That is evangelism. That is how the wedding hall is filled with guests. The good and the bad. Those along the highways and byways have need. They are marginalized, pushed aside, forgotten, despised, ignored. And it's not that they are so much more worthy: Both sets of guests are worthy. But the specially invited guests, the insiders, the believers [like us] They are very favoured. They are supposed to love God. All who follow should come. The one thing that distinguishes the first-invited guests from the second-invited guests. Presence. They showed up. All are invited. All are favoured. None of them do anything to earn or deserve an invitation. It is just lovingly given. To the good and bad. We don't like that either. We only want who we want, that we deem good in our little circles, sitting at the banquet. Every religion thinks that they're the ones God likes? The good and bad, like the wheat and weeds, grow together. Faith brings us here and that presence is what matters. Because presence creates a habit of receiving. Which is living humbly and gratefully. Presence is tough at times to understand. Showing up and being present speaks of worthiness before God. No one has a right. It's a gift. You can't earn it or prove it or work long enough to gain any standing. We show up, be present, and discover for ourselves the worthiness God has always known about us. And that's when we are transformed. It's not showing up and having things your own way. It doesn't mean I'm not perfect, but that's ok, none of us are perfect. So I can just get a free pass no matter what I do. No. That's legalistic, rigid, anti-Christ. All of us are imperfect, All of us are made perfect in Jesus. What is wrong is made right. What is hurting is soothed. What is evil is overcome in good. Jesus' good. Good to His Word. Good to His suffering. Good to His plan to save us by dying. His dying is real presence Because on the cross, Suffering in our place, The entire world is drawn into His blood-soaked embrace. The good and the bad All become worthy All get to see Paradise All receive His presence by faith. That's where the wedding garment comes in. Worthiness and faith, both given when we all receive Jesus in Baptism All gifts All freely given. Enjoyed by all.

So barging in without faith Being present but NOT sharing in Jesus' presence,  
His holy life, Is just as bad as rejecting the invite.  
They gave excuses, He is speechless. Neither is present. Both are outside the wedding feast.  
The only remedy for unworthiness is faith. That is a gift from God.  
You and I are not worthy. Jesus makes us worthy. We are garmented in Jesus,  
Robes woven on the loom of His cross, Fitted in faith and never wear out.  
Even as our community becomes a communion of faithful At this table, an earthly version of  
the Heavenly Feast.  
All who are worthy and "fully prepared who believe in the words, Given and shed for you for  
the forgiveness of all your sins." Holy Communion is a trust meal.  
A presence meal. Jesus' presence in h Bread and Wine. Jesus' presence in us when we dine.  
Our presence in the community is Jesus Himself And our action reveals the Lord we trust and  
need.  
God has free and unconditional love for all who are hungry and thirsty  
On the highways and byways,  
Places you and I spend a lot of our time.  
Not worrying who's in and who's out.  
Those you encounter who need Jesus' feast  
Will join you. Will trust God. Will let faith be the best gift.  
And not cringe at this invitation.  
Amen.

# Parable of the WEDDING FEAST



Read Matthew 22:1-14 (ESV). Find and circle the words below.

R R D K K W J T G W H Z X H T  
E O C J I B U G V E Y Y Y E G  
W C A C L N D W J D O E J A U  
B E G D A K G I D D F X D V E  
U K D Q S C P B N I X F E E S  
E L I D H Z R N G N W E D N T  
X P O N I E L X H G E U V D S  
F H Z H G N N H D H S R B O I  
I N C N Q D G N D A Q W Y C N  
N X F S R H O F W L C R K Q V  
G A R M E N T M E L F O O K I  
I C W U T Q L M Y A N B F Z T  
B Z I W M V P H B P S Z V O E  
I Q N F G V D K T D F T U K D  
S E R V A N T S Q I F L C H X

KINGDOM

WEDDING HALL

GARMENT

SERVANTS

ROADS

KING

HEAVEN

INVITED

DINNER

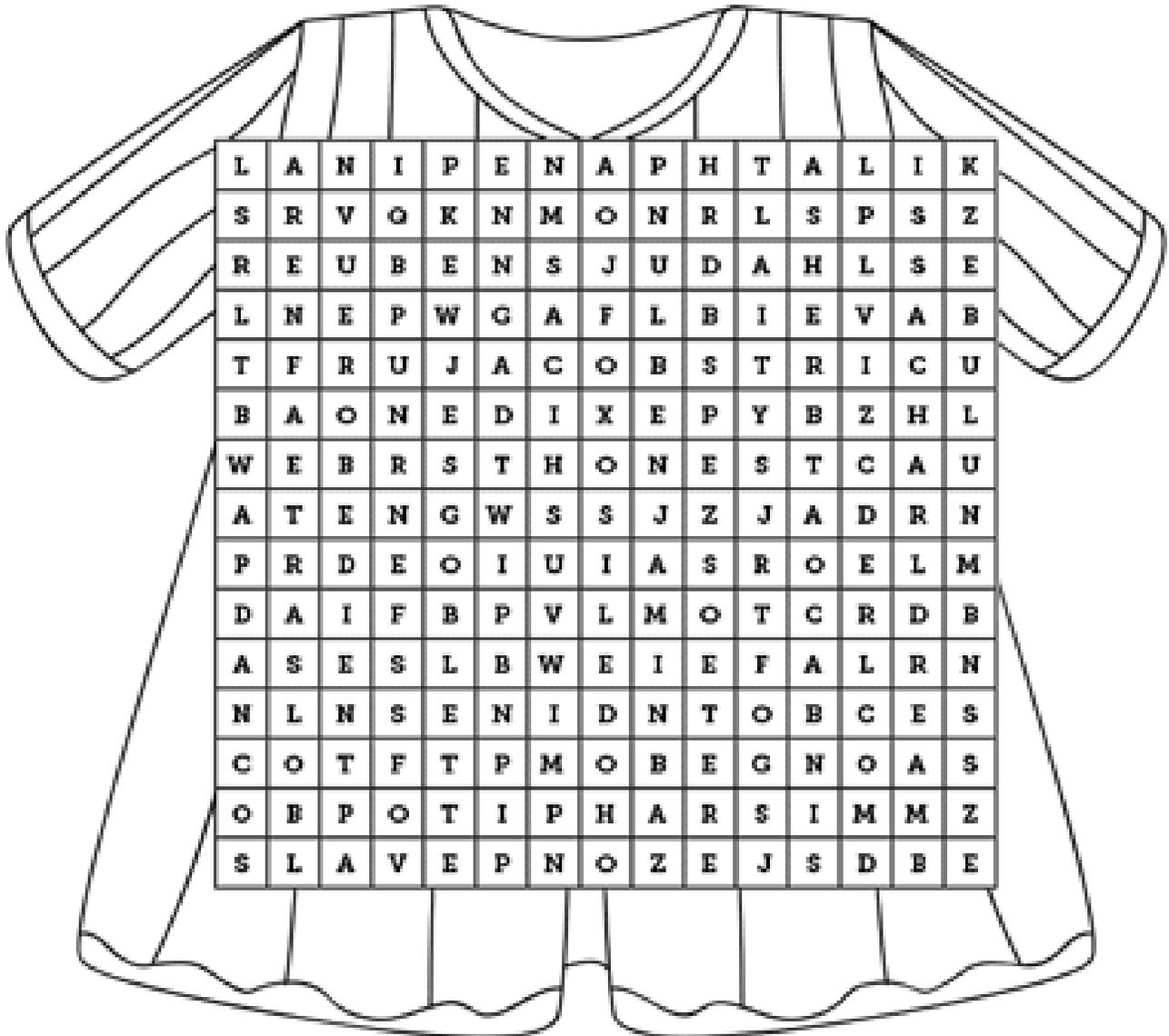
OXEN

WEDDING FEAST

GUESTS

# Joseph Word Search

Search for the given words below hidden in the squares.



FORGIVENESS  
 BENJAMIN  
 GOBLET  
 SLAVE  
 NAPHTALI

OBEDIENT  
 JACOB  
 HONEST  
 ZEBULUN  
 ASHER

JUDAH  
 SIMEON  
 LEVI  
 COAT  
 ISSACHAR

GAD  
 REUBEN  
 DREAM  
 DAN  
 POTIPHAR

