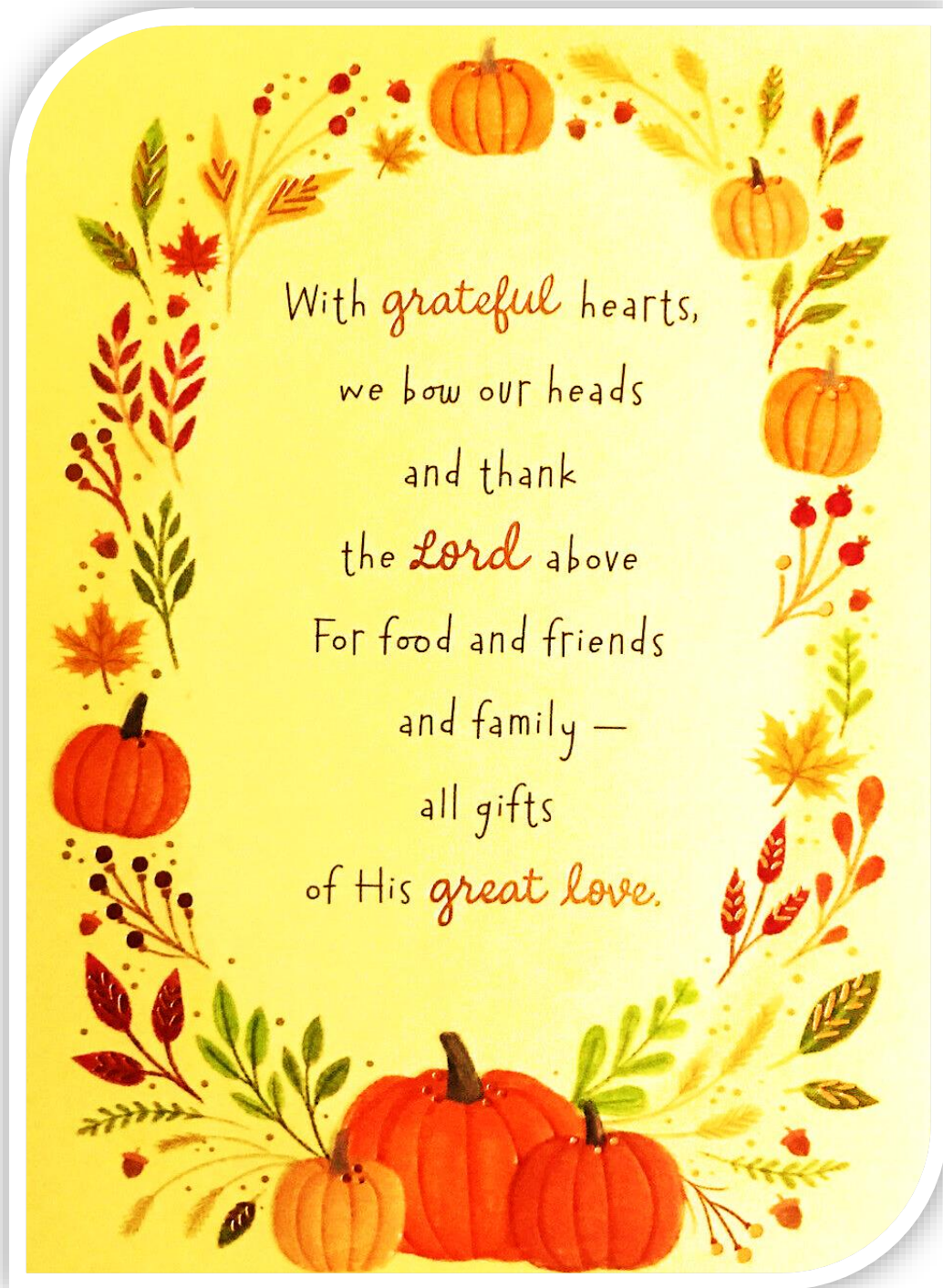


# Christ Lutheran Church - St. Catharines

Thanksgiving Sunday  
October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024



With *grateful* hearts,  
we bow our heads  
and thank  
the *Lord* above  
For food and friends  
and family —  
all gifts  
of His *great love*.

.....  
**Christ Lutheran Church – St. Catharines**  
140 Russell Avenue  
St. Catharines, ON  
L2R 1W1

**Phone: 905-685-8294**  
**Church Website: [www.christlutheransc.ca](http://www.christlutheransc.ca)**

**Romans 10:15 - - *How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!***

**Office Hours:** Tuesday to Friday – 9 a.m. to 12 noon

**Bulletin Announcements:** Please send to [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)

Deadline for submission is Thursday at 9 a.m.

**Pastor:** Rev. Todd Hoeffs 289-362-0113 [pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com](mailto:pastortoddhoeffs@gmail.com)  
**Deaconess:** Louise Gondosch 905-329-8579 [parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:parish.assistant@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Business Manager:** Emily Fernando 905-685-8294 [business.manager@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:business.manager@christlutheransc.ca)  
**Secretary:** Bronwyn Goodburn 905-685-8294 [secretary@christlutheransc.ca](mailto:secretary@christlutheransc.ca)  
Facebook [www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC](http://www.facebook.com/ChristLutheranChurchSC)  
CLChurch YouTube channel Christ Lutheran Church-YouTube (*link*)  
Pastor Todd's YouTube channel "Gathering the Scattered" (*link*)  
Seminarian Augustine Aylin, Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Colloquy Student Fieldworker

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## **WELCOME TO CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH – ST. CATHARINES!**

**We're glad you've joined us for worship!**

Please be aware that our Worship Services are ***recorded and posted on YouTube and Facebook***. There is, although very slight, a possibility that your image might be posted. If you have any concerns, please either speak to the Elder on duty or alternatively seat yourself more towards the back of the sanctuary or along either of the outside aisles. May our gracious and loving Lord bless you as you worship Him. We pray we all remain safe and healthy.

### **PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIPPING**

Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined. You have surrounded me with people who always look out for me. You have given me family and friends who bless me every day with kind words and actions. Amen.

### **DAILY SCRIPTURE MEDITATIONS**

Monday: Psalm 39  
Tuesday: Job 28:12-29:10

Wed: Job 32:1-22  
Thurs: Job 36:1-16

Friday: Job 37:1-24  
Saturday: Job 39:1-30

**Musician** – Mayumi Munoz + **Reader** – Fran Porteous + **Greeter** – Judy Slingerland

**ALSO HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN**

Monday: Happy Thanksgiving!  
 Tuesday: 9:30 – 10:30 AM Prayer Meeting  
 9:30 – 11 AM Precious Moments  
 7 PM Mary Martha  
 Wednesday 1 – 2 PM Bible Study "Wednesday in  
 Thursday: 10 – 11:30 AM SOUL  
 7:15 PM Promise Band Practice  
 Sunday: 9 – 9:30 Bible Study (Mark Gospel Readings)  
 9 – 9:50 AM Sunday School and Coffee Hour  
 10 AM – Mary Martha LWML Sunday (Band) Worship Service



the Word"



***YOU ARE INVITED!! EVERY SUNDAY!!***

***COFFEE & TEA TIME  
 CHRIST CAFÉ DOWNSTAIRS  
 SUNDAYS FROM 9 – 9:50 AM  
 ALL ARE WELCOME.***

**Anyone willing to help serve or bring treats, please contact Judy Mason**

\*\*\*\*\*

**October 2024 Worship Schedule**



October 20<sup>th</sup> – Scripture & Song Mission Service  
 Mary Martha LWML Sunday (Band)  
 October 27<sup>th</sup> – LSB Setting 3 Communion Reformation Day

\*\*\*\*\*

***Correction:*** A donation has been made to the Nicaragua Mission Fund by Glenn and Carole Pink in memory of Greg Munz.



**Flowers have been placed on the altar this morning by Tom & Kathy Kuhl in Thanksgiving and to the glory of God.**

**NOTE: The Board of Directors is calling a Special Resolution - Member's meeting on *Sunday October 20, 2024, after the Sunday Morning Service.*** The proposed resolution that we are seeking member ratification will be posted at the back of the church on the bulletin board, but is focused on amending our incorporation articles to include levels of membership and to allow for increased numbers of directors.



This week's lesson is "A Servant's Mission". Abraham tasks a faithful servant with finding a wife for Isaac from Abraham's homeland. The servant prays for a sign and waits at a well outside the city of Nahor. Rebekah appears, offering to draw water for both man and beast – the sign the servant had asked for. Rebekah invites the servant to come to her family home. Having receiving gifts from Abraham, Rebekah's family sends her to Isaac with their blessings.

**PRECIOUS MOMENTS:** We invite you to bring your "Precious little one" Tuesday mornings between 9:30 - 11:00 am. During our time together we play, sing songs about Jesus, read and learn Bible stories, make a special craft and have a snack. This year we are also adding a devotion time for "Moms." We meet downstairs in the church nursery. The coffee and tea are always on and you will be greeted with friendly smiles. Feel free to drop in.



**It is NOT too late – please RENEW or obtain your Seminary Guild membership.** Your \$10.00 helps to support the needs of the students at the Seminary with gift certificates for books in first year, their first clerical collar, a portable communion set when they graduate, pantry items as needed, and so much more. Please prayerfully consider supporting our pastors of the future in this small way. **Please contact Gail Julie.**

#### **LWML-C/MARY MARTHA EVENTS**



**Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – Bazaar planning**  
**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM -LWML-C Sunday**  
**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM – Christmas Bazaar**  
**Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – Warm feet for the Street packaging**  
**Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – Christmas Pot Luck**  
**Everyone at Christ is welcome to attend.**

**OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** this year will be held on  
**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 9AM to 2PM.**

\*\*\*\**Save the date*---Please note that it is *2 wks. earlier this year*\*\*\*\*

Support our efforts to raise funds for various Missions *around the world and* help for our Community.

\*\*\*Please start spreading the word to help us advertise & plan to attend!

\*\*\*It's not too early to make items or gifts for the Craft Table.

\*\*\*Any items you may have for the "Nearly New" Tables may be brought in any time now and placed in the back-room downstairs. Please bring only good quality items (*not white elephant*) in nearly new or gently used condition.

They should be packed in a box or tied bag and placed neatly on the cupboard or shelves that are labeled Bazaar.

\*\*\*Monetary donations also gratefully accepted (cash or cheques made out to Mary Martha Society)

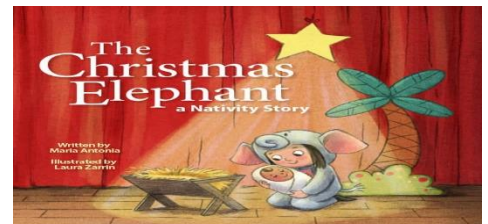
\*\*\*More details to follow but if you have any questions, please contact Carole Pink or any of our M.M./LWML ladies.

**Last Sunday's Attendance – October 6th, 2024: 85**

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS**

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Weekly need</b>	<b>Last Sunday</b>	<b>2024-10-06 YTD</b>	<b>+/(-)</b>
Current	303,899.00	5,844.21	2,664.00	143,023.34	(90,745.12)
LCC Missions	17,500.00	336.54	258.00	15,569.86	2,108.32
Property Improvements			30.00	3,899.50	

**BOOK LAUNCH PARTY!** Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, from 2-4 pm at Heritage Christian Book Store. Join in the excitement of meeting the Author of "**The Christmas Elephant**" a nativity story; Maria Antonia (daughter of Pastor and Jill Munoz). Free activities for kids, elephant cookies and so much more!



**November 23rd, 2024**

Yes, it will be one year already on November 23rd that our family: Kareem, Hamida, Ameer, and Asser arrived in Canada.

The Fellowship Committee and your Refugee Committee are planning a first anniversary dinner for our family on that Saturday. Please keep tuned for further details. Everyone is welcome.



**LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRY SERMONS:** *These highly regarded sermons are broadcast each Sunday morning on 99.5 FM WDCX, Buffalo, at 10:30 A.M. Check the website for participating stations or you can listen any time to a podcast or MP3 or read the text at [www.ill.ca](http://www.ill.ca).*

*They are a worthwhile addition to your regular observance of the Lord's Day and a particularly helpful alternative if you know you will be unable to attend our regular Worship Service at Christ Lutheran Church for any reason. The Lutheran Hour speaker is Rev. D. Michael Zeigler.*

**WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN?**

Another Project Connect booklet from the Lutheran Hour. It talks about the Bible's answer to these questions: **1. Why do pain and suffering exist? 2. What benefit can possibly come from my troubles? 3. What has God done to deal with the evil and pain in this world?** There are some interesting statements such as: "Pain is God's bullhorn to rouse a deaf world." "God allows trials to come to us so we become refined and more compassionate people. Our problem is that often we do not want to be improved." Jesus was the man who was treated more unfairly than anyone else in history. Jesus Christ is the only God with scars. Romans 8:28, *"And we know that all things work together for good for those who love God and care called according to His purpose."* If you don't see this booklet in our display rack please ask Pastor John.



**THANKSGIVING DONATIONS / DISPLAY FOR THE SEMINARY!!!** A huge THANK YOU to all who so freely donated this year and thanks to God for His rich blessings to us!

**Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary** is hosting a chapel service and presentation on **Thursday, October 31st, beginning at 10 am.** The Seminary Rare Book Room has recently been gifted a treasure: a small volume containing six captivating original pamphlets produced by Martin Luther between 1520 and 1539. Join us for a presentation by Prof. Kirk Radford called "From the Pen of the Reformer" on these extraordinary pamphlets. Paid parking available on the Brock campus at Lot E. (Accessible parking at the seminary for those who need it.) **The event is FREE, but we do ask that you register by emailing [reception@concordia-seminary.ca](mailto:reception@concordia-seminary.ca).**

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## ***October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month***

***There are plenty of phish in the sea.***

***Don't be one of them!***

***Please be aware there have been e-mails sent out in***


***Pastor Hoeff's name that are Phishing Scams.***



### **Ways to prevent Phishing yourself from Phish net:**

- Be very careful about not replying to any such spam mails that ask you to confirm or update any information about your account.
- Do not follow any links that come with the spam mails, which will lead you to websites that ask for conformation of your account information.
- Never copy an unknown link from these kinds of spam mails and paste them on your web browsers. These links are made to look very humble by the phishers, but they will actually land you to some scam and fraud sites.
- Be careful about opening or saving any document or attachment that comes with spam mails. Do not trust these kinds of e-mails even if they appear to be sent by some authorized entity.
- Never ever send your confidential information about your account in an e-mail.
- It is better to be protected from these scams by using firewall, anti-spyware and anti-virus software. Make sure to update this software regularly for security of your PC.
- Do not respond to those scam mails, which even seem to offer sound business or ask you to avail a refund. The fraudsters often sent you phone numbers so that you call them up for business purpose. They use Voice over Internet Protocol technology. With this technology, their calls can never be traced.
- The church will NEVER ask for money or gift cards via an e-mail.

\*\*\*\*\*



**CONCORDIA  
ROCKS  
BONSPIEL**

**Saturday Nov. 23, 2024**

- \$50 per curler  
- Williamsford Community Centre, 112 Salter St., Williamsford, Ontario

- Draws at 8:30 & 10:00  
- catered lunch awards at 3:30  
- novices welcome  
- all proceeds for CLTS Student Aid Fund

Reserve your spot by emailing Carol  
carollc1952@gmail.com or text 226-668-4353

Calling all curlers (and the curling curious)! Register for the first ever **Concordia Rocks Bonspiel. Saturday, November 23, 2024** at the **Williamsford Community Centre** (112 Salter St, Williamsford, Ontario, close to Owen Sound). 2 games, 2 draws, lunch, refreshments, prizes, and a whole pile of fun. Draw 1 @8:30 and Draw 2 @10:00. All proceed to the Student Aid Fund of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. Novices are welcome! Registration \$50.00/curler. Limited to the first 32 curlers. For more info visit: [www.concordia-seminary.ca](http://www.concordia-seminary.ca). Reserve your spot by emailing Carol at [carollc1952@gmail.com](mailto:carollc1952@gmail.com) or text 226-668-4353



**PROPERTY (Latest church maintenance costs).** The following repairs to the church building are to be undertaken by Smith’s Home Services for the caulking of the stained glass windows at a cost of \$4,068.00 and Scott’s Roofing & Repairs for the repair of a leak between the roof and the tower at a cost of \$1,695.00.

**BEARS AND BLANKETS**



The Bears and Blankets offering to Seniors in long term care and retirement homes has now placed over 600 care kits in over 30 places. We **WELCOME** donations of small to medium sized homey or home-made blankets.

Bears and Blankets for seniors is a 100% volunteer offering. For more info, you can call Jan at 289-990-4839 or email [janscats@gmail.com](mailto:janscats@gmail.com), I may be able to do pickup!

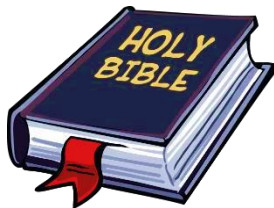
For my church friends, while most references to bears in the Bible are not positive, there is this note from the Apostle Paul to the Christians in Galatia – “Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” 😊

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**SATURDAY, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024 4:00 p.m.**

**Devotion and Singing**



**Supper provided**  
*(please sign up to bring a salad or dessert)*



**Sign-up Sheet in Narthex**





**YOUTH AT HOWELLS: Saturday October 26** - we have planned a trip to Howells. We will carpool from the church at 5:30. Please sign up through the email from Valerie or speak with Louise or Dan. Friends are welcome to join us.



**UNBREAKABLE**  
WITH THE WHOLE ARMOUR OF GOD

**NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING LCC for youth ages 13 to18 from July 4 to 8, 2025**, at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. The theme is **UNBREAKABLE** with the whole Armour of God." The two main speakers are Rev Dr. Robert Bugbee and Jennifer Kerr (a mental and relational health counsellor from Regina. Mark the date. More information will follow.

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**CHRISTMAS URN WORKSHOP at The Watering Can in Vineland  
3725 King St., Vineland, ON, L0R 2C0**

**Thursday, NOVEMBER 14, 2024  
Doors Open AT 6 p.m.  
Workshop Starts Promptly at 6:30 p.m.**



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

***\*\*\*Become the designer of your own Winter Wonderland Planter\*\*\****

**SOUL FUNDRAISER  
Cost is \$75.00**

**Deadline for sign up and payment is Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>  
*Please notify Wendy Shook  
if you are interested—905-380-6544***

# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## THANKS & PRAISE HOLY COMMUNION

*Adapted from Lutheran Church of Australia Worship & Creative Lutheran Worship Resources*

### Thanksgiving Sunday

October 13, 2024 + 10 AM worship

GATHERING HYMN    ***“Come, You Thankful People”***    *LSB # 892 Vs. 1 & 4*

**Come, you thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.**

**All is safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.**

**God, our maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied.**

**Come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.**

**For the Lord our God will come and will take His harvest home;  
from his field shall in that day, all offenses purge away;  
give his angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
but the fruitful ears to store in his garner evermore.**

*Text: Henry Alford, 1810-1871, alt.*

#### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

**Amen.**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

**There is no end to His greatness!**

O Lord, You open wide Your hand

**And satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**Let us make good vows to the Most High God!**

Let us go before the altar of God.

**To Him, Who is our joy and delight.**

Friends in Christ: Let us draw near to God our Father with a true heart to confess our sins, and ask Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

*[Brief silence for self-examination]*

**O Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we confess that by nature we are sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. Have mercy on us, and for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, forgive us. By Your Holy Spirit increase our knowledge of You and Your will, and make us keep sacred Your Word, so that by Your grace we may come to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Receive the forgiveness Christ Himself has won for you by His Passion, death and resurrection. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SPOKEN KYRIE

**O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,  
have mercy on us and bless us with peace. Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

*"The Lord My God"*

*(Tune: "Now Thank We")*

**The Lord my God be praised! My Light, my Life from Heaven.  
My Maker, Who to me, has soul and body given.  
Glory to God on High, and peace with us to-day,  
We praise and thank you Lord, for blessings on our way.**

**The Lord my God be praised! My trust, my Life from Heaven.  
The Father's own dear Son, Whose life for me was given.  
Who for my sin atoned with His most precious Blood,  
And gives to me by faith, the highest Heavn'ly Good!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: Almighty Father, Whose mercies are new every morning and even though we do not deserve Your goodness, still You abundantly provides for all our wants of body and soul, grant us, we humbly pray, Your Holy Spirit that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness toward us, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You willingly; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**The Old Testament** *Deuteronomy 8:1-10*

This entire commandment that I command you today you must diligently observe, so that you may live and increase, and go in and occupy the land that the LORD promised on oath to your ancestors. Remember the long way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments. He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. The clothes on your back did not wear out and your feet did not swell these forty years. Know then in your heart that as a parent disciplines a child so the LORD your God disciplines you. Therefore keep the commandments of the LORD your God, by walking in his ways and by fearing him. For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land with flowing streams, with springs and underground waters welling up in valleys and hills, a land of wheat and barley, of vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land where you may eat bread without scarcity, where you will lack nothing, a land whose stones are iron and from whose hills you may mine copper. You shall eat your fill and bless the LORD your God for the good land that he has given you. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Epistle**      *Philippians 4:6-9*

[St. Paul writes:] Do not worry 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, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SUNG GOSPEL VERSE      *"Come, You Thankful"*

**Even so, Lord quickly come to Your final harvest home.  
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified, in Your garner to abide.  
Come, with all Your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.**

**The Holy Gospel**      *St. Luke 14:12-24*

The Holy Gospel, according to St. Luke the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.' One of the dinner guests, on hearing this, said to him, 'Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!' Then Jesus said to him, 'Someone gave a great dinner and invited many. At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, "Come; for everything is ready now." But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, "I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my apologies." Another said, "I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my apologies." Another said, "I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come." So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, "Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." And the slave said, "Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room." Then the master said to the slave, "Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.'" ' 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 HYMN *"Let Us Go Now To The Banquet"*

*Refrain / Estribillo*



Let us go now to the ban - quet to the



Feast of the ran - somed world. The Ta - ble's set and a place is



wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1. I will rise in the ear -- ly morn - ing; the com -  
 2. God in - vites all the poor and hung -- ry to the  
 3. May we build such a place a -- mong us where all



mu -- ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm  
 Ban - quet of just - ice and good where the har - vest will not be  
 Peo -- ple are eq - ual in love. God has called us to work to -

*Refrain / Estribillo*



walk - ing with my friends and my fam -- il -- y.  
 hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.  
 geth -- er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, *Misa popular salvadoreña*; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
 Music: VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE, Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955  
 Text and music © 1994, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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## MESSAGE

THE OFFERINGS *are gathered*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need. Gracious Father, you send from your abundance the people, talents, and resources needed for all the ministries of your church. We give thanks for the work you have accomplished through your people, and we pray for your continued blessings in our ministry together. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bountiful Creator, you feed us through the richness of the land, water, sunlight, and ample crops. Bless all those who cultivate the land to bring forth its bounty, especially farmers and migrant workers. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Redeemer, you order our lives by your providence. We give you thanks for laws, infrastructure, and leadership that structure and support our human endeavors. Align our purposes with your own, that all our undertakings might bring you glory. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving Lord, you open our hearts in compassion for one another. We give you thanks for the care and healing received through the hands and feet of your servants. Send us to love those most in need of your mercy especially . . . we remember ---[ ] Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Welcoming Father, you connect and strengthen us through meals and conversation with family and friends. In this time of thanksgiving, steer us from passive receiving to active response, from old quarrels to reconciliation, and from overconsumption to true gratitude. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever. **Amen.**

## SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

*Tune of "Come, You Thankful People, Come"*

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, Mighty God of Sab-ba-oth;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim, shout the glories of Your name!  
Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, unto Heav'n Hosanna sing!  
Blest is He Who comes to save; loud Hosannas now we bring!**

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER *"Our Father, Who art in Heaven...."*

LAMB OF GOD *"Jesus Christ True Lamb"* (Tune: Come, You Thankful)  
**Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God, this world's sins You take away.**  
**Grant us mercy, now we pray, into Heav'n You've made a way;**  
**Jesus Christ, True Lamb of God, this world's sins You take away.**  
**Grant us mercy, grant us peace, Jesus Christ True Lamb of God.**

## HOLY COMMUNION AT CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

**As a baptized Christian in the faith:**

- 1) I believe in the Scriptural teaching that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of this Sacrament. Jesus Himself says: "Eat My Flesh and drink My Blood and I will raise you up on the Last Day." [John 6]
- 2) I believe that I am worthy to receive the Sacrament as a baptized believer, who admits and confesses sins, receives forgiveness and desires to live a new life in Jesus Christ;
- 3) I believe that by eating and drinking Jesus Christ in the Bread and Wine I receive forgiveness of sins, salvation, new life and unity with other brothers and sisters in the faith;
- 4) I believe what is taught by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism: "a person is fully prepared who believes in the words 'given and shed for you for the forgiveness of all sins'."
- 5) Non-members who believe this confession of faith we welcome to join us for Holy Communion
- 6) If you desire Holy Communion, church membership or further information about receiving the Sacrament, please speak with the Pastor or an elder before worship.

### 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 sacramental wine mixed with water are in the centre ring of the trays.

COMMUNION HYMNS

*"Sing To The Lord Of Harvest"* [hymnary.org/WSCW1969/page/227](http://hymnary.org/WSCW1969/page/227)



1 Sing to the Lord of har-vest, Sing songs of love and  
praise; With joy-ful hearts and voic-es Your al-le-lu-ias  
raise. By him the roll-ing sea-sons In fruit-ful or-der  
move; Sing to the Lord of har-vest A joy-ous song of love.

2 By him the clouds drop fatness,  
The deserts bloom and spring,  
The hills leap up in gladness,  
The valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with his fullness  
All things with large increase,  
He crowns the year with goodness,  
With plenty and with peace.

3 Bring to his sacred altar  
The gifts his goodness gave,  
The golden sheaves of harvest,  
The souls he died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him  
When at his feet you fall,  
And with your lives adore him,  
Who gave his life for all.

Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811–75)

Tune: *Wie lieblich ist der Maien*, Johann Steurlein (1546–1613)

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**"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call"**

*[On Galilee's High Mount Tune]*



1. The Bride-groom soon will call us: Come to the. Wedding Feast!



May not His voice ap-pall us, while slumber binds our breasts!



May all our lamps be burn-ing, and oil e-nough and more,



That we, with Him re-turn-ing, may find an o-pen door!

2. There shall we see delighted our dear Redeemer's face,  
Who leads our souls benighted-- To glory by His grace.  
The patriarchs shall meet us, The prophets' holy band,  
Apostles, martyrs, greet us In that celestial land.
3. Our Father, rich in blessing, will give us crowns of gold  
And, to His presence pressing, Impart a joy untold,  
Will welcome with embraces Of never-ending love,  
And deck us with His graces In blissful realms above.
4. In mansions fair and spacious Will God the feast prepare  
And, ever kind and gracious, Bid us its riches share.  
There glory knows no measure From springs of love shall flow,  
And never-changing pleasure His bounty will bestow.
5. Thus God shall from all evil Forever make us free,  
From sin and from the devil, From all adversity,  
From sickness, pain, and sadness, From troubles, cares, and fears,  
And grant us heavenly gladness -- And wipe away our tears.

*Words: Johann Walther, 1552, translated by Matthias Loy, 1880 -- 1st Published in: "Musae Sioniae," VII, 1609 Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872 MISSIONARY HYMN*

# "How Deep The Father's Love"

*E* *F#m E/G# A* *E/G#* *E/B B*

How deep the Fa-ther's love for us, how vast be-yond all meas-ure that  
 Be-hold the Man up-on a cross, my sin up-on His shoul-ders. A-  
 I will not boast in an-y-tings; no gifts, no pow'r no wis-dom. But

*E* *F#m E/G# A* *E/G#* *B E*

He should give His on-ly Son to make a wretch His treas-ure. How  
 shamed, I hear my mock-ing voice call out a-mong the scof-fers. It  
 I will boast in Je-sus Christ: His death and res-ur-rec-tion. Why

*F#m E/G# E* *E/G#* *C#m B*

great the pain of sear-ring loss. The Fa-ther turns His face a-way as  
 was my sin that held-Him there, un-til it was ac-com-plished; His  
 should I gain from His-re-ward I can-not give an an-swer. But

*E* *F#m E/G# A* *E/G#* *B*

wounds which mar the Cho-sen One bring man-y sons to glo-  
 dy-ing breath has brought me life. I know that it is fin-  
 this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ran-

1.,2. *E A/C# E/B E A<sup>2</sup>* 3. *E*

ry.  
 ished.

2. Be- som.  
 3. I

***"Sent Forth By God's Blessing"***

**1 Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from His 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.**

**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.**

*Words: Omer Westendorf, 1964 <https://charlesghose.com/2020/05/06/sent-forth-by-gods-blessing/>*

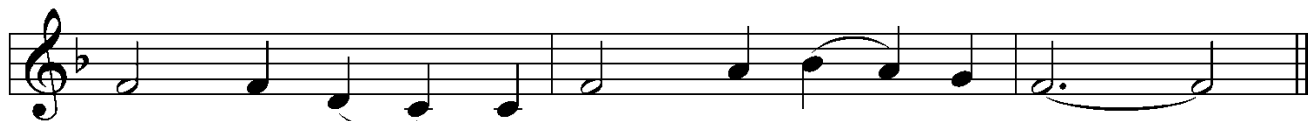
POST-COMMUNION HYMN ***"Lord, Bid Your Servant"*** (Tune: "Land of Rest")



1 Lord, bid Your ser - vant go in peace,  
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world,  
△ 3 With saints of old, with saints to come,



Your word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -  
The Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing  
To You we lift our voice; To Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, This child so long fore - told.  
in our midst, The joy of Is - ra - el.  
Spir - it blest Be hon - or, love, and praise.

*Text (sts. 1-2): © 1969, 1989 OCP Publications; (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110005782 Tune: Public domain*

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: Almighty God, Who has given Your Son, Jesus Christ, as a Sacrifice for sin and the True Example of a godly life, give us grace that as we have received Him in the Holy Communion Feast we may daily abide in Him, hearing and believing His Holy Word and living out our days in peace and joy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us praise the Lord!

**Thanks be to God!**

## BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord upon you with favour, + and give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN *"Praise & Thanksgiving"*

[www.hymnary.orgLSB](http://www.hymnary.orgLSB)



1 Praise and thanks-giv - ing, Fa - ther, we of - fer For all things  
2 Bless, Lord, the la - bor We bring to serve You That with our  
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing Food for Your chil - dren, By Your wise



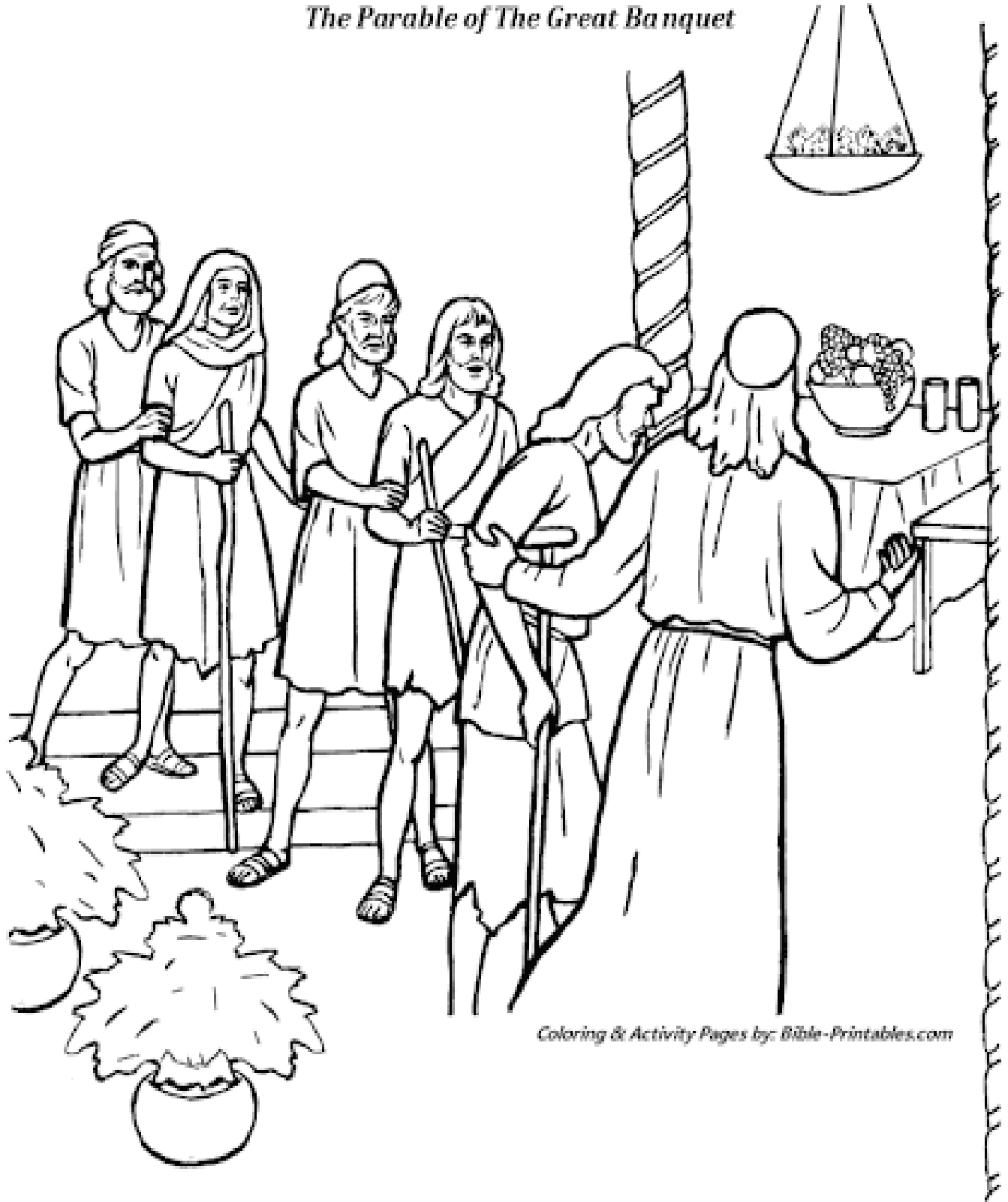
liv - ing, Cre - at - ed good: Har - vest of sown fields, Fruits of the  
neigh - bor We may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, We would work  
guid - ing Teach us to share One with an - oth - er, So that, re -



or - chard, Hay from the mown fields, Bloss - om and wood.  
with You, Har - vest - ing, mill - ing For dai - ly bread.  
joic - ing With us, all oth - ers May know Your care.

4 Then will Your bless - ing reach ev'ry peo - ple, free - ly con - fess - ing, Your gracious Hand.  
Where all be - lieve You, no - one should hun - ger, in Your love's sway You, nourish the land.

*The Parable of The Great Banquet*



# The Great Feast (Luke 14:16-24)

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

apologies  
parable  
feast  
roads  
room

crippled  
servant  
field  
full

excuses  
dinner  
house  
lame

invited  
master  
lanes  
oxen

married  
blind  
order  
poor

REV. TODD HOEFFS  
PENTECOST 15 (series C)  
Scripture: St. Luke 14:1, 7-14  
“Knowing your place?”  
October 13, 2024

When I sat in the pew of the church as a kid, my parents got a bit perturbed whenever new families visited. Sometimes they'd act different or their kids might talk a bit louder or not always know what was going on. And my home church happened to be an attraction for many lower income families as well as the mentally handicapped people of all ages and walks of life. I often heard grumbling over this. I once asked my mom what the problem was: she said “well, they just don't know their place.” “What IS their place?” I asked – I'm sure the answer I got centred around some form of protocol or behaviour.

What IS their place? What IS our place? Are we not all the same before God? On one hand, yes, we are. On the other hand, no – those who think they're better or “know their place” are NOT better. In fact, God will exalt the lowly and make low the self-exalted.

This is one of the most common themes you will see in Luke's Gospel. Right at the start with Mary pregnant with the Christ child: angel Gabriel tells her the humble will be exalted, the empty will be fed, the lowly will be raised up....and the proud, arrogant ones will be shown THEIR place and made low.

Why do the Pharisees want Jesus at their dinner party? He's already proven to be a subversive, eating with sinners, healing on the Sabbath, dirtying Himself with the dregs of society. Yet they invite Him - which is saying this JESUS is their social EQUAL! They want to show Him proper meal etiquette and put Him in HIS rightful place.

Dinner parties normally have protocol. Like weddings. Name tags on the tables. Food prepared. Drinks ready. Room for everyone to sit. Never ignore your guests. Even in a house party, guests aren't expected to raid the fridge or cook their own steak. Some things are just expected of a host.

There's certainly protocol in Jesus' day. Everyone knew their rightful place in society. Your place was decided by wealth, birth rite, order of birth; this decided what you wore and the way food was distributed. Social standing dictated almost every aspect of life. No exceptions. If you attend a party like the Pharisees' home and sit in the place of honour, you'd only do so if it's your right. To sit in a place to which you had no claim opens yourself up to humiliation and embarrassment and no-one wants that.

In grade 8 a Jewish family moved to our very white small US town. Their son AVI was in my homeroom. Tall, dark hair & complexion. In a time where kids dressed in the 1980's trendy fashions, Avi came to school in wool dress pants and heavy, dark sweaters.

He smelled like strange cooking odors. No one liked him. He was highly intelligent with a quirky sense of humor. Kids were cruel. Kids managed to make the name "Oinky" out of Avi and the slur stuck. I befriended Avi. I was in awe of his academic abilities and he was in awe of my sensitivity to choose him as a buddy. Avi invited me to his birthday party that year. My parents didn't want me to go cuz it was a 10 mile drive away from town. But I went anyway. To my surprise, it was his bar-mitzvah. The 1<sup>st</sup> time I ever saw a money tree as a present! I was the only friend he invited from school. There were rabbis and notably religious people of some sort there



I'd never encountered before. Immediately I was hauled up to the head table right next to Avi and given quite a seat of honour. I was totally mesmerized by all of this. I was treated like a VIP! Talk about being put in a PLACE.

Jesus isn't about about breaking LAWS to make people of importance feel bad for what they have. And He's not about making lowly egos inflate either. Jesus doesn't just uphold social norms just because. LAW AND CULTURE & MEAL ETTIQUITES do not save us. No one entered Heaven's gates on good behaviour. JESUS is really showing the difference between life in the everyday world and how life IS in God's kingdom.

In the world there's social order that stands like a monument, but in God's kingdom He'll show you YOUR Place, your undeserved place.

In order to be exalted, that is, praised and given honour in God's kingdom, you must be humbled. Humble here literally means able to learn. Ready to be taught by a God Who knows us far better than we ever could. That's hard. Our egos usually want stroking, we want to hear how good we are or how important we are, especially those of us who need words of affirmation spoken to us to feel loved or edified, and we want to be shown the place of honour so that we feel good about ourselves.

Jesus warns that in his Kingdom social order isn't followed. In His Father's house are many mansions where the lowly of everyday life find a resting place and the folks who feel superior are out of luck. Jesus shows everyone where their place is. Jesus actually has the holy nerve to give the Pharisee hosts of the dinner a truly COMPLETE guest list! This would be a no no today, so even more than!

But Heaven's Banquet isn't just filled up with your relatives and friends and people of equal footing. We are not called to love only those who we're most comfortable being around and who in turn have the means to invite you back to their home. God doesn't work that way. And since Pharisees equate who they eat with by who is righteous, holy and "saved", Jesus throws that all away.

Jesus says, go out and invite people who can't possibly be expected to invite you in return and therefore repay you for your kindness and hospitality. Now there's a tough direction to take. But when you think about it, whenever you invite a friend or neighbour over for a meal or a party, even to your cottage or play your computer games, there's an underlying and unwritten protocol in place that you should return the favour. We want to show that we can do the same for them in return. And that's not entirely wrong either, but the point here is that by asking someone who can't repay you means that you are giving them a true gift, not a means of exchange.

Why does Jesus do this? Well, this Heavenly Lesson He gives us carries a treasured message of love no one could possibly repay. JESUS knew His place. His place is with the lowly. His place is with sinners. His place is with the outcast, losers, discriminated, disliked, mocked and abused. His place is with you, me, and all who need and hunger and yearn for peace and joy. And yet the place He had to stand in NO ONE could go. The place of torture. The cross. He knew His place. He died in that place and in dying He has perfected freed us from being bound to any place.

Our place is with Him. Baptized into His death and resurrection. Our egos and negative attitudes die and our new forgiven selves rise up alive. Baptism is our invite to Jesus' great banquet.

Baptism is our invite to His Table here. His Holy Communion feast is a table for all who desire a taste of His goodness. At His table stature and standing and social order disappears. Eating His Body, drinking His Blood, we are all made one in His Body until we eat around His Heavenly Banquet, knowing our place, taking our place, all because of Jesus. He forgives us and says, "Friend, come up here to a higher place reserved for you at my table."

That's a picture of Heaven. That's also a picture of the church. We are not a social club nor a hall of high morality. We are an inviting church that yearns for ALL PEOPLE to have a seat of honour with us. And we don't need to worry about them "knowing their place" other than their place with us elbow to elbow at the Communion rail. Martin Luther himself said reaching out to the stranger is the same as one beggar telling another beggar where to find the bread. The Bread is here. Christ our Bread and Cup and Fountain and Lamb in God's Heavenly Banquet. In Christ, and only in Christ, do we know and treasure our PLACE. Amen.

When I worked at KMART as a university student I was invited to my 1<sup>st</sup> staff party. Hosted by the head cashier, it was a "Come as you are BYO party." Come as you are? What's that? (I was a bit dense and naïve I suppose). Well, come dressed up, in pj's, swim suits, or whatever makes one comfortable. OK. Well, what's BYO? I had the nerve to ask what BYO meant (my parents wouldn't have known). BYO...ya know", he said, "Bring Your Own..." I said, bring your own...what?" Oh, Bring your own, food, snacks, drinks, plates, cups....well, why go I thought to myself? I was used to my parents hosting parties and providing all the food and drink. That's the time my mom showed off her baking and my dad showed off his grilling skills. Guests should be served and enjoy the company of friends. Needless to say, I didn't go to the BYO party.