



## St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

October 11, 2020

*Welcome! This week, the Prophet Isaiah offers a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy, God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.*



### Prelude

***Let Us Break Bread Together* by Dale Wood**

### Bells

### Welcome and Announcements

### Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity: Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

Recognizing our need for God's mercy and grace, we confess our sin...

*(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)*

God of heaven and earth:

**We name before you the sin that enslaves us,  
the sin that wounds us and others,  
the sin that scars our world.**

**We have held too tightly your gifts.**

**We have lived for ourselves at the expense of others.**

**Turn us again to you, O God, and toward our neighbor.**

**Have mercy on us, O Lord. Amen.**

God is generous and faithful, forgiving sins without number,  
welcoming all to the feast, and giving us a place among the saints.

Through the humble obedience of ✚ Christ Jesus,

who went to the Cross for our sake, you are forgiven and made whole.

The Spirit of God is at work in you, enabling you to live for one another. **Amen.**

### Choir

***We Come to the Hungry Feast***

### Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

## Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## 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 righteousness and peace,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## First Reading

**Isaiah 25:6-9**

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

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.

<sup>9</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading

**Philippians 4:4-9**

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, 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. <sup>9</sup>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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Holy Gospel

**Matthew 22:1-14**

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord:

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Pastor James Dew**

**Anthem**

***Psalm 80***

**Apostles' Creed**

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

God calls us to love and serve him with body, mind, and spirit, and to reach out with that same love toward our neighbor, naming them as our sisters and brothers. Let us open our hearts in compassion and lift up our prayers on behalf of the Church and the world around us:

God of heaven and earth, we pray for your people, the Church, gathered here this morning and all around the world, that we may be able to truly hear the Word you speak to us this day, entering the deepest parts of who we are, and revealing to us your very voice, which calls us to life and brings us to wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord God, for the grace to recognize your hands at work all around us, that we may respond with new hearts toward whatever you ask of us, that you would work through us, to bring forth, even in our daily living, the gifts of your Spirit, and the signs of your reign. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we pray for all who strive for peace, both in our neighborhoods and across the globe, that we may discover ways to enable us all to resolve conflicts through dialogue and understanding, in order to find true and lasting healing for persistent struggles, partisan polarities, and even ancient wounds. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we lift up to you all who find themselves in the hard and difficult places in life. We lift up to you all who struggle for health and mobility, and for all who despair and all who grieve. We lift up our prayers on behalf of *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny and Cherie Knippa, Jeff and Lori Sackett, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Beth Knox, Lee Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Joe Reiner, Ken Boehme, Tammy Dorsey, the family of Pastor James Heineke* and all else whom we also name, that you would strengthen and renew their lives, and provide for each of them precisely what they need at this time. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your good hands, O God, we commend all for whom and which we pray, trusting always in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Peace

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

*(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*



## Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,  
Almighty and Merciful God, through Jesus our Christ,  
who, on this first day of the week, overcame the powers of sin and death,  
opening to us the way of everlasting life.  
You have made us to be a holy people,  
claiming us through the waters of Baptism and marking us with the sign of the Cross.

For on the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

Every time we eat this bread, our brokenness is mended;  
every time we share this cup, we receive that grace which transforms us;  
every time we come to this meal, we proclaim the One who gives us life:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup, our Lord Jesus gives us his very self, that we  
who share in Christ's body and blood may live as a people of new life,  
and on the last day stand and be counted among the saints in light. **Amen.**

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

*We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.*

## **Communion Prayer**

Our Lord Jesus:  
You invite us continually  
to come to your table and to be your guests.  
As you welcome us in this Holy Sacrament,  
so teach us to also offer ourselves,  
that as we share the gifts you give to your people,  
together may we be the body of Christ. **Amen.**

## **Benediction**

The Spirit of the Lord rest upon you,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,  
the Spirit of joy in God's presence.

And the blessing of God,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be among you, and and at work through you. **Amen.**

## **Choir**

***For the Bread Which You Have Broken***

## **Dismissal**

Let us go in peace and seek the ways of the Lord.  
**In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

## **Postlude**

***Trumpet Tune by Gordon Young***

*Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.*

## This Week at St. John's

Today, October 11 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, October 11 @ 10:00am	Worship
Monday, October 12 @ 6:15pm	Church Council Meeting

(There will be no Word, Silence, and Prayer this week.)

*Please see our online calendar at [www.stjohnssa.org](http://www.stjohnssa.org) for other events.  
For prayer requests, please contact the church office  
(210) 223-2611 or [info@StJohnsSA.org](mailto:info@StJohnsSA.org)*

## Opportunities to Make a Positive Difference

**CAM Clothing Needs** CAM is currently accepting gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women; casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes. (They are not accepting at this time any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear.) Contact Sarah Kory at [skory@cam-sa.org](mailto:skory@cam-sa.org) or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

**CAM Sandwiches** Every other Tuesday, we deliver sandwiches to CAM to help feed others. The next scheduled Tuesday will be October 20. For more information about this ministry, please contact Bea Imken at 210-878-7874.

**Habitat for Humanity** We will be participating in a build on Saturday, October 31. If you are able to help, please email Bae Imken at [beafitt@gmail.com](mailto:beafitt@gmail.com). Experience is not required. A full list of safety precautions will be emailed to all volunteers prior to the event.

**Lutheran Disaster Response** The ELCA is often the first on the scene to provide emergency help and continued assistance whenever trouble strikes. Right now, the Lutheran Disaster Response is in need of your generous donations to speed aid to those whose lives have been impacted by recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other calamities. You can donate at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

**Synodical Ministries** Closer to home, you can donate to any number of our own synodical ministries at <https://www.swtsynod.org/give>



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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