

In Isaiah we are given 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 wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *As We Gather at Your Table* BEHNKE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth. Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God, we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through † Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. Amen.

HYMN #522 *As We Gather at Your Table* IN BABILONE

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. 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: 1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

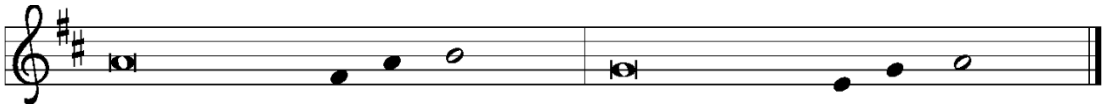
⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ 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. ⁹ It will be said on that day, “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

“See, 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.” garden; he expected justice but saw bloodshed; righteousness but heard a cry!

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

PSALM 23 (*sing responsively*)



- ¹ The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
- ² **The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**
- ³ You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no
evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4: 1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

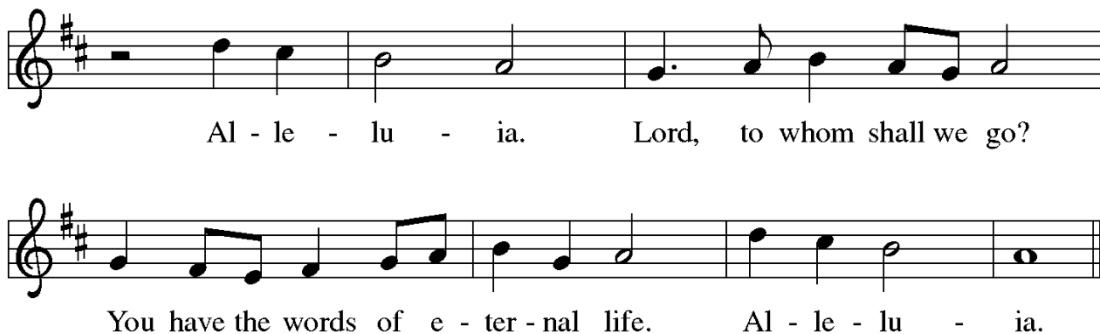
² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

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

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, 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. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22: 1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ 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.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ 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.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Pastor Art Wilde*

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us 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.

THE PRAYERS

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

...Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING (8:15) *I Love You, Lord* KLEIN
 (10:45) Senior Choir *Cantate Domino* GREYSON
 Cantate Domino Sing to the Lord
 canticum novum, a new song,
 laus ejus in praise him in
 Ecclesia Sanctorum. the assembly of saints.
 Laetetur Israel Let Israel rejoice
 in eo, qui fecit eum, in him who made them,
 et filii Sion and the children of Zion
 exultet in rege suo. exult in their king.

OFFERTORY #481 *Come to the Table of Mercy* COME TO THE TABLE



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly quarter and eighth notes with slurs. The lyrics are printed below each staff.

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOLY]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains four staves of music in G major. The melody is more varied than the first section, including some half notes and a final sharp on the last staff. The lyrics are printed below each staff.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

AGNUS DEI [LAMB OF GOD]



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BLESSING

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. Amen

SENDING HYMN #873 *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* MARION

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Blaenwern* FARLEE

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Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by Bree Stahl in honor of Bree, Anthony, and Jacob's birthdays this month!

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat will take place on October 18th, 4 – 5:30pm. Sign up sheets to build a trunk or volunteer are on the youth bulletin board!

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S FALL GATHERING

All women of First Lutheran Church are invited to Blessings in Bloom - the Central Region Lutheran Women's Fall Gathering! Sunday, Oct. 18th at Trinity Arcadia (18974 St. Rte. 12, Arcadia). Registration begins at 12:15, and Lunch at 12:30. The cost is \$7 per person, and personal care items will be received for the "Blessings in Blooms" agency in Findlay. RSVP by October 12th to Trinity Church at 419-894-6330 and leave a message.

MILITARY MINISTRY Social Ministry is trying to keep the Military Ministry active and going. Beverly Horn had given it up due to her illness. She is starting to feel better and is contemplating trying to pick it up again, but would appreciate help as she would not be able to take it on by herself. This would involve contacting families of our military and getting updated photos and addresses. Please pray about trying to help with this project and contact Beverly Horn 567 305 0378 if you are willing to assist with this very valuable ministry. Thank you.

SACRED DAILY During Pastor Tucker's sabbatical there will not be a pastor to lead Sacred Daily. The chapel will still be available Mondays through Thursdays at or about 11:30 a.m. for private or group praying of Noon Prayer. The order of service and Bibles are in the chapel pews.

THE NEW 2027 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

OPEN POSITION: The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Casey Cox.

HOLY LAND COOPERATIVE VISITING

On **October 25, 2026**, during both services, we will hear about the Christians of the Holy Land, and in the narthex there will be a display of olive wood religious handicrafts from Bethlehem available for a donation. The olive wood carvings include Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and others. They are carved by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on their crafts for their daily bread. More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depends upon tourism as their only source of income. Tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income have been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflicts, which has made it very difficult for the Christian families to survive. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, but today it is less than 1%. If this continues, soon we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites. A Christian family from Bethlehem will tell us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and present these carvings after the services.