The 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 11th, 2026

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.



LIVING FAITH LUTHERAN

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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:
…Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN **ACS 977**
Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table

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.

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**.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

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.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

[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 beside 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

[1] My [siblings], 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, [siblings], 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.

Word of God. Word of life.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION **ELW p. 142**

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14
The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY **ELW 523**
Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

A TIME ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

WELCOME TO BELONGING
Presentation of New Members by Sponsors

A Blessing for the Baptized written by Meta Herrick Carlson

Profession of Faith
Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?
I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
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.

Address & Questions
Questions of commitment and support asked of new members, sponsors, and entire assembly. When addressed, each responds:
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us welcome these siblings in Christ to Living Faith!
We rejoice with you in the life of baptism.
Together we will give thanks and praise to God
and proclaim the good news to all people.

HYMN OF BELONGING **ACS 1038**
God, We Gather as Your People

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING **ELW 491**
Come, Let Us Eat

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

DIALOGUE
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.

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY **ELW p. 144**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE
…For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

…And let the church say, "Amen." **Amen!** [2x]

…all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

COMMUNION HYMNS **ELW 522 & 553**

BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN **ELW 547**
Sent Forth by God's Blessing

SENDING
Go in peace. You belong here!
Thanks be to God.

Thank you, worship leaders!

Greeter/Usher: Tim Kass
Accompanist: Pixie Balt
Reader: Nathan Summerside
Communion Assistant: Kim Lang
Altar Guild: Kay Michaelson, John & Peg McAllister
Livestream: Jenni Mack
Audio/Visual: Tim Kass & Kay Michaelson
Bulletin Art: Angela Catton

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