

WELCOMING WORD *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.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C: The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

L: You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

C: 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.

L: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

OPENING HYMN #718 Here in This Place (vs. 1-3)

Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished a way;
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a myst'ry; we are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of hist'ry, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong.
Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you.
Nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Faithful God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

C: Amen.

INVOCATION

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Lord of the feast,

C: 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 LESSON: Isaiah 25:1-9 .¹O 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. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For 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, ⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

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. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he 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. ⁹It 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.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:1-9 ¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. ²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, 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 co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

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

⁸Finally, 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. ⁹Keep 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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14 ¹Once 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. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again 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.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those 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, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then 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.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

MESSAGE – Pastor John Twiton

HYMN #224 *Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; leave the gloomy haunts of sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded.
He, though heav'nly, high and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet him; eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking; quickly, now, your gate unlocking.
Open wide the fast closed portal, saying to the Lord immortal,
"Come, and leave your loved one never; Dwell within my heart forever."

Now in faith, I humbly ponder over this surpassing wonder.
That the bread of life is boundless though the souls it feeds are countless,
With the choicest wine of heaven, Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation.

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, truest friend, and dearest treasure;
Peace beyond all understanding, joy into all life expanding.
Humbly now, I bow before you; love incarnate, I adore you.
Worthily let me receive you, and, so favored, never leave you.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERTORY PRAYER Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

P: Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill (*especially*). Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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. 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.

BENEDICTION *May the blessing of God our creator, the love of Jesus Christ our redeemer, and the presence of the Holy Spirit the comforter, surround you and sustain you until we gather again*

CLOSING HYMN: #752 Here I Am, Lord

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**REFRAIN: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

REFRAIN

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

OUR SYMPATHIES ARE WITH the family & friends of

- **Lyle Opsal.** Lyle passed away on October 6.
- **Christine Monahan & family.** Christine's mother, Frigga Ruscetta passed away in September.

Judy Jennings
Ruth Osterholz
sons)Makenzee Smith
Brian Marshall (friend of Kim Kelliher)
Dorothy Jelle
Mary Krantz
Ruth Ann Nemet
Connie Fausett (sister of Diane Twiton & Jean Bower)
Laurie Duden (Brenda Martin's aunt)
Bill Steinhauer
Peter Toniazzo
Richard Schuhler (friend of Ron & Bonny Kellogg)
Trevor, Lizzie & Cammie Sayre (son of Tamie Reichert)

Agnes Robertson (friend of Holly Thompson)
Nick Sydow (friend of Connie Curran's
Delores Bryant
Brock Howe
Jeannie U'Ren
Mike Olson (Wendy Rasmussen's brother)
Irene Bruflat
Sally Gaard (friend of Margie Kahl)
Harlan Oimoen
Grace Aavang
Dianne Haskins (friend of Char Smith)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The graphic features the book cover for 'White Fragility' by Robin DiAngelo on the left. The cover is dark with white text. On the right, a yellow box contains the following text: 'White Fragility Book Study (6 - week series)', 'Thursdays, Sept. 17th - Oct. 22nd', '7- 8 pm on ZOOM', 'Everyone in our community is welcome', and 'RSVP - tsiburg@elcmthoreb.org or Brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org'. At the bottom of the graphic is the logo for 'EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH of Mount Horeb'.

BUCKY BOOKS FOR SALE Our youth are fundraising to help our future summer youth opportunities. Each book sells for \$35.00. **TO ORDER:** Email brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org OR Locate our link to order online on our ELC website - search for the Youth tab/High School. Thank you for your support.

SUNDAY SCHOOL on ZOOM Join us on ZOOM, 9:00 - 9:30 am, each Sunday morning. Youth, who are 3 years old - 8th grade are invited to participate. It is great seeing their faces each week. Lessons are also emailed, if you are unable to attend our ZOOM time.

FUSE NIGHTS on ZOOM Youth, who are 9th - 12th graders are welcome to join our high school group on ZOOM, Mondays, October 12 & 26 at 7 pm. FUSE nights build relationships, challenge each other in exciting games, time to hang out, and learn about what it means to share our faith with everyone.

DEVOTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 11, 2020

SHARE: What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

READ: Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding

Monday, Psalm 34, Praise for Deliverance

Tuesday, Amos 9:5-15, Destruction and Restoration of the Kingdom

Wednesday, Song of Solomon 7:10-8:4, Delight in Praise

Thursday, Psalm 96:1-13, Praise for God's judgement

Friday, 1 Peter 5:1-5, Tending the flock of God

Saturday, Isaiah 14:3-11, Downfall of Babylon

TALK: Consider some of these ideas: "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:7 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.

- How can we find a way to focus on the true, honorable, and just, when so many other things clamor for attention?
- How do you define 'gentleness'? Is that what people see in our Christian witness?
- How hard is it to 'rejoice always'?
- Do we ask for/sense the 'peace of God' in our daily lives?

PRAY: 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.**

BLESS: May you rejoice in God's peace this day. Amen!