



THE POWER OF PARABLES



PARABLE OF THE WEDDING BANQUET

*The kingdom of heaven is like a king
who prepared a wedding banquet for his son...*

MATTHEW 22:1-14

INSANE REJECTION

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: October 15, 2023



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

God's Word for this week

There are invitations we might be tempted to reject: an invitation to an event you are not interested in, an invitation to a party that takes place at the same time as something else you want to do. There are other invitations which people would say you've lost your mind to reject. We get so many invitations. Some we accept; others we reject. Where does God's invitation to participate in his heavenly banquet rank? Scripture often pictures eternal life as a joyful party, full of friends and family, laughter, and the finest foods. Through a story Jesus teaches us how insane it would be to reject God's gracious invitation to that eternal celebration. More, Jesus tells us what we need to get into that best of all banquets.

Before Worship

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

General Information

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall. Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

Serving in Worship

Music: Rachel Halldorson
Ushers: Mike Jensen, Kurt Knurr
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

Church Information

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text to 520-236-9673

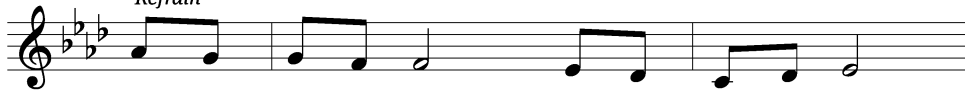
T-Loop Hearing Assistance

If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal earbuds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.



828 *Where Your Treasure Is (Choir + Congregation)* CW 828 sts. Ref-3

Refrain



Where your trea - sure is, there your heart shall be.



All that you pos - sess will nev - er set you free.



Seek the things that last; come and learn from me.



Where your trea - sure is, your heart shall be.



- 1 What do you gain from all your wor - ry,
- 2 Look at the ra - vens high a - bove you.
- 3 Be - hold the lil - ies in their splen - dor.



what you should eat or what to wear?
They do not work their whole life through,
In grace and beau - ty are they dressed,



There is no peace in stress or hur - ry.
and yet God feeds them and pro - tects them.
and yet so soon their bloom is fad - ed.



Do you not know that you are held with - in God's care?
So how much more will God pro - tect and care for you?
So how much more will those who look to God be blessed?

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Opening Blessing

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

And also with you.

Confession & Absolution

Our King has invited us to enjoy all his rich blessings -

But we have turned him down and went our own way.

Let us confess our sins to God and ask for his forgiveness:

Almighty God, merciful Father,

I confess to you that I have not loved you with all my heart.

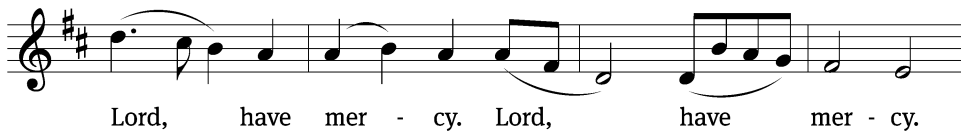
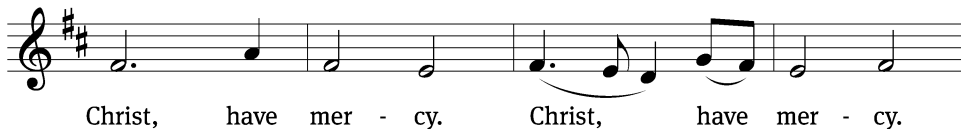
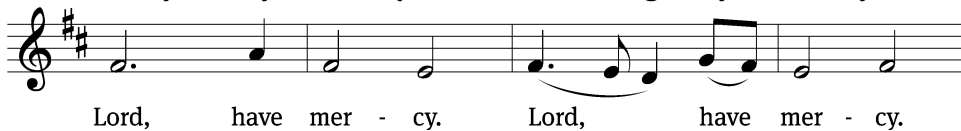
In what I have done and left undone,

I have pursued my ways instead of your ways.

I have not loved others as you command.

For this I deserve your punishment now and forever.

I am sorry for my sins. I repent of them. I beg for your mercy:



Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

1036 Gloria (Ger) - FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN

CW 1036

Tune: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN CHRISTEN



1 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;



for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.



Al - mighty - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it, at God the Fa - ther's throne,



we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Leonhart Schröter

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Tune: Public domain

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Be seated

THE WORD

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare
a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

⁷On this mountain he will destroy
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

⁹In that day they will say,

“Surely this is our God;
we trusted in him, and he saved us.

This is the LORD, we trusted in him;
let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 84A

How lovely is your dwelling place,

LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;

my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;

they are ever praising you.

Better is one day in your courts

than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

LORD Almighty,

blessed is the one who trusts in you.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 1:16-17

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Verse of the Day

Isaiah 25:6

Alleluia. On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples. Alleluia.



Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:1–14

¹Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹²He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

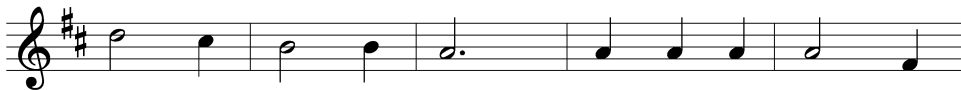
¹⁴For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

CW 573 sts. 1-4



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness my beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day; who can a
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more than sands up -



are, my glo - rious dress; mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly ab - solved through
ver - y throne of God pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, you have for all a



these ar - rayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.
these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
lib - er - ty, was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, for all a full a - tone - ment made.

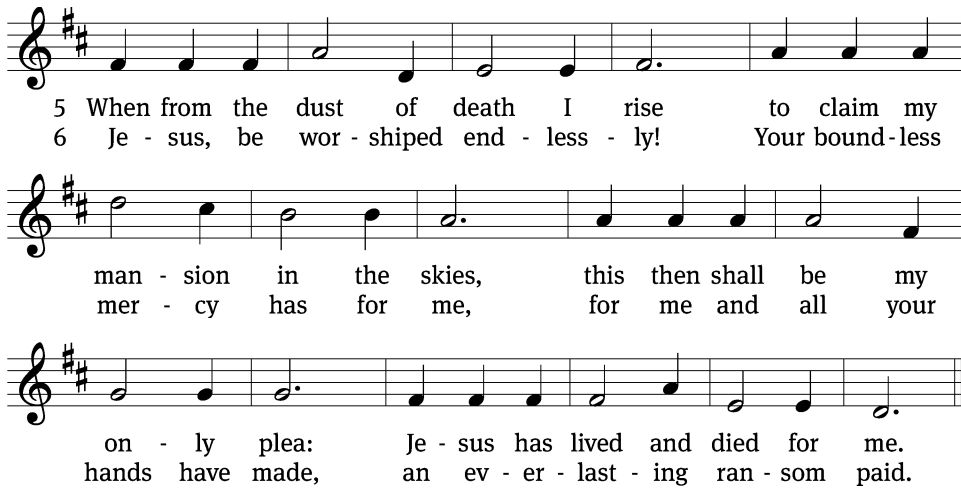
Text: tr. John B. Wesley, 1703-1791, alt.; Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760, abr.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 22:1-14 "INSANITY"



5 When from the dust of death I rise to claim my
 6 Je - sus, be wor - shiped end - less - ly! Your bound - less
 man - sion in the skies, this then shall be my
 mer - cy has for me, for me and all your
 on - ly plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.
 hands have made, an ev - er - last - ing ran - som paid.

Text: tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–1791, alt.; Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760, abr.
 Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893
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Apostles' Creed

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We thank you for inviting us to your glorious heavenly banquet. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives as we wait for the grand celebration in heaven.

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and Sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.

Restore our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and enforce our laws. Watch over all our elections and prevent anyone from interference or fraud.

Give us leaders who may promote justice and hinder evil.

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity, and all those suffering from the effects of terrorism in Israel. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death, or death of a loved one, draws near.

Bring peace and stability across the globe. Open doors for the Gospel when tragedy strikes. Be with all the hurting and struggling. Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring before your throne of Grace those who are in need of your help, protection, and power right now:

Silent prayer

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors and enjoy the beauty of your glorious home. Console all those who are mourning or living with sadness and grief of all kinds.

Keep us in the one true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.

Grant us all these things, heavenly Father, according to your plans and your timetable, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Offering

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
Amen.

902 Spread Abroad, O Mighty Word

CW 902 sts. 1–4, 6



1 Spread a - broad, O might - y Word, tell - ing
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will made the
3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's love, who for -
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to
6 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to



of a gra - cious Lord whose all - pow'r - ful
world, up - holds it still, how his on - ly
ev - er does re - move by his ho - ly
guide us on to heav'n, strong and ho - ly,
ac - tion heart and mind; let the gath - 'ring



gos - pel call fills his heav'n - ly ban - quet hall.
Son he gave all from sin and death to save.
sac - ri - fice all the guilt that on us lies.
just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

Text: tr. composite; Jonathan F. Bahnmeier, 1774–1841, abr.

Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745, alt.

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Acknowledgments

Setting Eight (German) from Christian Worship

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Choir

Thank-you to Becca Kroll and our choir for edifying our worship this morning! Please speak to Becca if you'd like to participate.

Pastor's Schedule

Due to Pastor's travelling this month communion will be held on the 2nd and 5th Sundays. It's also offered after every service on Sunday. Also please note that the Wednesday Genesis Bible Class will have to be on hold the next 3 weeks (for the remainder of October). We'll resume again in November.

Bible Classes

Please take advantage of the Bible Classes now offered at Grace: Sunday morning 9 am / Wednesday afternoon 3 pm / the last Friday of the month at 10:30 am. Talk to pastor if you'd like to join in one of the current BIC courses as well.

Oktoberfest

Thank-you to the Krolls for hosting an Oktoberfest on Saturday, may God bless our fellowship time together and open doors for us to share the Gospel with our friends and neighbors.

Upcoming Schedule

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Oct. 18-26	all week	Pastor in Calgary AB
Oct. 22	10:00 am	Lay Led Worship (no communion)
Oct. 26	10:00 am	Mornings With Mommy
Oct. 27	10:30 am	Monthly Parables Bible Study
Oct. 27	11:30 am	Men's and Women's Lunch Out
Oct. 29	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Oct. 29	11:00 am	Special Reformation Potluck lunch
Nov. 1	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class resumes

A Look at our Church Library

Have you ever checked out a book from our church library? Grace offers books to take home and read available to members and friends of Grace. You are invited to pick one out for yourself! Maybe you're looking for a devotional book or perhaps you're interested in a certain subject on a deeper level. You might enjoy something to supplement what you're already doing at home. You can even find information on other religions highlighting what others believe and how that compares to what Scripture says. All the books available in the Grace library are carefully vetted and written by trusted authors and pastors that mirror what we teach here at Grace. New books continue to be added to assist you in your personal spiritual growth. Check one out today!

Fall Recommendation: *People's Bible*

When you're at home reading the Bible, do you ever wish you had the pastor right there to explain something to you? You could have him on speed dial, but you more likely soon forget what you were wondering about and never get the explanation you were hoping for. Help is here! The library at Grace now has the complete People's Bible series for you to check out and take home. For instance, if you are reading through the book of Acts, you can check out the Acts People's Bible to read along with it! The People's Bible is a Bible commentary for everyone. Written by experienced pastors and professors who begin with the original Hebrew or Greek text, each easy-to-read volume helps Christians enrich their study of the Bible and points them to its central focus, Jesus Christ. (NPH) It's almost as good as having a pastor with you as you're reading! You can always bring your questions to Pastor Halldorson but for those times when he's not readily available, check out what the People's Bible has to say. It's a great way to grow in your understanding of Scripture at home!

Your church secretary, Rachel Halldorson