

St. Paul, Blissfield  
Blessing of Quilts, School Kits, and Health Kits  
ELW Service of the Word  
Sunday, October 11, 2020  
19th Sunday after Pentecost

### **GATHERING**

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

### **INTRODUCTION**

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.

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

**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.**

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.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG

### 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

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us 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.**

### WORD

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

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>For 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.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. <sup>4</sup>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,

<sup>5</sup>the 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.

<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.

### **Psalm: 80:7-15**

<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd; I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**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. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my  
life, and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

### **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.*

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

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>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 co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<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.**

### **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.*

<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**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY**

#### **BLESSING OF QUILT AND KITS OF CARE**

God, you have called us to go and do likewise as we reach out to our neighbors around the world. Send forth your Spirit today as we call upon you to bless our work and make it holy.

**Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors. Lead us to follow in your footsteps.**

God, we give you thanks for those who have generously shared their resources in order to make these quilts and kits possible. Move us by their example to live generous lives.

**Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors. Lead us to follow in your footsteps.**

Thank you, God, for the hands that have made and assembled these quilts and kits. May each compassionate touch be known to those who receive them as an expression of your love.

**Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors. Lead us to follow in your footsteps.**

God, we lift before you the staff and partners of LWR who will distribute these quilts and kits around the world. Give them strength and encouragement to do this important work and guide them as they reach our neighbors who are the farthest away.

**Jesus, teach us to love our neighbors. Lead us to follow in your footsteps.**

Finally, God, we pray for our neighbors around the world who will receive these quilts and kits – neighbors we have never met, neighbors who are far away, neighbors who, like us, long for your grace and mercy. May these quilts and kits wrap our neighbors in love and fill them with the hope and peace that is only found in you.

**Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

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\*Or, “he descended into hell,” another translation of this text in widespread use.

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

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

*Each petition will end with “Lord in your mercy”. Please respond with: “hear our prayer.”*

## **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.**

## **SENDING**

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

## **BLESSING**

Empowered by God’s unconditional love in Jesus, go and do likewise, continuing to show mercy to neighbors near and far, in the name of the Father, the Son +, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **SENDING SONG**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

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