



*St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church*

*Rev. Ronald C. Szep, pastor*

**Wednesday, October 21, 2020**

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All of today's hymns are found in the pew hymnal  
"Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal" (CW). © 1993 NPH

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## **EVENING DEVOTION**

### **Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

Today the Lord calls us to the heavenly banquet. Let nothing hinder our attendance.

*Greeting by the minister*

*Please Stand*

#### **OPENING DIALOGUE:**

Minister: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world,

**Congregation: The light no darkness can overcome.**

**M:** Stay with us, for it is evening,

**C:** **And the day is almost over.**

M: Let your light scatter the darkness.

**C:** **Let it shine in our hearts and lives. Amen.**

#### **PRAYER FOR PEACE:**

M: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** **Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Philippians 4:4-13**

From prison Paul invites Christians to rejoice with him! Why? "The Lord is near." Anxiety is put to rest by confident petitions to the Omnipotent and thankful recognition of divine blessings received. Peace between God and man guards our hearts, fills our minds with everything "Excellent and praiseworthy," and supplies the secret of being content in every situation.

*<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!*

*<sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.*

*<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

*<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*

*<sup>9</sup> Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put*

*it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.*

*<sup>10</sup> I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it.*

*<sup>11</sup> I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.*

*<sup>12</sup> I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed*

*or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.*

*<sup>13</sup> I can do all this through him who gives me strength.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: CW Hymn 376**

***"Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"***

376

Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness



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 -  
 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in  
 word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -  
 ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for  
 on the o - cean shore, You have for all a  
 man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.  
 solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.  
 sin - ners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.  
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.  
 all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!  
 Your boundless mercy has for me,  
 For me and all your hands have made,  
 An everlasting ransom paid.

**SERMON:** *based on Matthew 22:1-14*  
**“An Amazing Invitation”**

The kingdom of heaven is likened to a wedding banquet that is spread and announced by the lavish grace of God. It is free to all, and all are eventually invited. If God invited so many, why do so few attend? Leave it to depraved human nature to drag its feet, to make excuses, or to seek admission while dressed in its own rebellion! “Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

**22** *Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:*

<sup>2</sup> *“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son.*

<sup>3</sup> *He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.*

<sup>4</sup> *“Then 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.’*

<sup>5</sup> *“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.*

<sup>6</sup> *The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them.*

<sup>7</sup> *The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.*

<sup>8</sup> *“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.*

<sup>9</sup> *So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’*

<sup>10</sup> *So 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.*

<sup>11</sup> *“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.*

<sup>12</sup> *He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.*

<sup>13</sup> *“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’*

<sup>14</sup> *“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”*

*Please Stand*

**PROFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles’ Creed** *(read in unison)*

**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.**

**PRAYERS:**

**Luther's Evening Prayer** (*in unison*)

**I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

*Special prayers and intercessions: optional, read by the minister*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent Prayer*

M: Grant, O merciful Lord, to your people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*in unison*)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

**BLESSING:**

M: May the blessing of the eternal God be upon us: his light to guide us, his presence to shelter us, his peace to unite us.

**C: Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: CW Hymn 219**

***"Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See"***

END TIME

## 219 Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

Lord, when your glo - ry I shall see And taste your king - dom's  
plea - sure, Your blood my roy - al robe shall be, My  
joy be - yond all mea - sure! When I ap - pear be - fore your  
throne, Your right - eous - ness shall be my crown; With  
these I need not hide me. And there, in gar - ments rich - ly  
wrought, As your own bride I shall be brought To  
stand in joy be - side you.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.

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GRIEF SHARE

# SURVIVING — THE — HOLIDAYS



Discover ways to handle social events and holiday traditions while grieving.

## **GRIEF SHARE SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS**

Saturday, November 21  
10:00am to 12:00 Noon

***PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED***

***NO WALK-INS***

*class size limited due to social distancing*

Register online at

<https://www.griefshare.org/holidays/events/33824>

or contact the church office at 920.788.4408 or  
[office@stlukeslittlechute.com](mailto:office@stlukeslittlechute.com)