



**Worship for Sunday, October 11, 2020 - 19th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church**  
**Greendale, WI [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)**

### **Introduction to the day**

*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.*

### **PRELUDE - "Aria" By Flor Peeters**

### **TEMPLE TALK - Barbara Fritschel**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for 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.**

### **GREETING**

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.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE - "As the Grains of Wheat"

*Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.  
1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when  
*Refrain*  
may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen  
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### PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **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.**

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9 *(Andi & Alex Matusiak)*

*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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9**

(Andi & Alex Matusiak)

*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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Celtic Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker  
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## GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

**P:** The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C:** **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.*

<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.”

**P:** The gospel of the Lord. **C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE - “Invited”** *Rev. Brian Hooper*

## HYMN OF THE DAY- “Let Us Go Now to the Banquet”



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la  
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



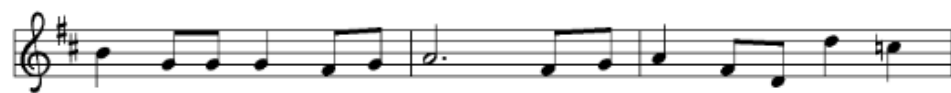
me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -  
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y u - na mi - sión.  
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -  
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -  
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the  
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do a - le - gre la  
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm  
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be  
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu a - mis - tad.  
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.  
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.  
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

2 *Dios invita a todos los pobres a esta mesa común por la fe, donde no hay acaparadores y a nadie le falta el conqué. Estribillo*  
3 *Dios nos manda a hacer de este mundo una mesa donde haya igualdad, trabajando y luchando juntos, compartiendo la propiedad. Estribillo*

Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955. *Misa popular salvadoreña*; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956  
Music: VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE, Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955  
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## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in a great God who created the world  
our of power and love God's creative love  
is reflected in all creation.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly human.  
His life, his teaching, his miracles, his death**

**and his resurrection provide true forgiveness  
of sin and life for all eternity.**

**His strength bolsters my weakness.**

**His love conquers my failures.**

**His sacrifice forgives my sins.**

**I trust him as a friend and brother.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**God at work in and among us.**

**I believe God is present and active**

**in today's world and I can know**

**some of the joy of heaven right now.**

**I believe the church of Christ is the people of God,**

**and I experience true meaning and**

**everlasting love in my life through prayer. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L: Joined together in confidence of God's grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words "receive our prayers."

*A brief silence.*

L: That even through global sorrows the church can rejoice in your salvation, that bishops, pastors, deacons, and church leaders be unstained for their ministries, that churches find strength in ecumenical and interracial collaboration, that church members resolve their conflicts in peace, and that all the baptized find ways in this difficult time to uphold what is honorable and just: We pray for the church, O God our Shepherd:

**C: receive our prayers.**

L: That the damaged places on earth be restored to fruitfulness, that the animals in the wild be safeguarded, and that we human will be dedicated to a commendable use of your creation. We pray for the earth, O God our Creator:

**C: receive our prayers.**

L: That national conflicts be resolved without warfare and destruction, that the work of diplomats and international peace workers be honored, that leaders of nations attend to the need of the poor, that our country be preserved from discord, rancor, and violence, that the election process will be just, that prejudice based on ethnicity, skin color, and economic status be ended, and that justice will prevail in our laws and through our courts. We pray for peace and justice, O God our Ruler:

**C: receive our prayers.**

L: That the plague of the coronavirus will subside, that all who are sick with the virus, from rulers to refugees, be healed, that people living with fear be comforted, that medical workers be supported and medical supplies be made everywhere available, and that a vaccine be developed and fairly distributed, We pray during this pandemic, O God our Healer:

**C: receive our prayers.**

L: That those who suffer from want be assisted, that those without work find jobs, that children be educated, that ministries of care be strengthened to feed those who hunger and those without homes, that extremism be lessened and a spirit of cooperation be nurtured, and for all who are sick, whose names we call out here...: We pray for all in need, O God our Guardian:

**C: receive our prayers.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

L: That you receive our thanks for all those who have died in the faith, what when facing our own death, you give us hope, and that you grant us your peace throughout our days, We praise and pray to you, O God our Homeland:

C: **receive our prayers.**

L: Into your hands, merciful God, we offer ourselves and all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

C: **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.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

L: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

C: **Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## **POSTLUDE - Fugue In G Major By J. S. Bach BWV 541**

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## **TEMPLE TALK**

“It’s not about you.” Rick Warren starts his book *A Purpose Driven Life* with this sentence. It reminds us that worship (and life) is about God. God is our focus, whatever form our worship takes.

Worship has taken many forms, from where two or three are gathered, to the thousands who heard Peter’s sermon at Pentecost. A quiet meditation in a prayer garden to a music filled service for Christmas or Easter.

This past year during the pandemic we have discovered new ways to worship – Zoom, small gatherings, meditations sent out by pastor. Worship is acceptable to God when we come to be with and listen to God whether it is in the church building, our back porch, or on the couch with family.

We worship God out of gratitude for all that God has done for us. What are some of the things you are grateful about the way worship happens at St. Stephens? I have many things I am grateful for but most of all, I am grateful for worshiping with a community of people who understand that it isn’t about them, but it is about God.

## **SSM GRATEFUL STATEMENTS**

*-Among the many things for which I am grateful at SSM are the many faithful women who participate in both the Women’s Bible Study and the Monday Monthly Study. I am grateful for the faithful study and the fellowship of both of these groups. It is a spiritually fulfilling experience each time I am fortunate enough to study the scriptures with these groups.*

*- I am grateful for getting to know people better as we discuss “White Fragility” and people share things about their lives. I am grateful for Zoom Women’s Bible Study as led by Bonnie Zimmermann. I am grateful that we still have Zoom Sunday worship.*