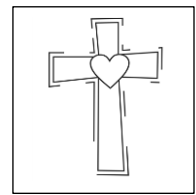


Perley Lutheran Parish  
October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Lectionary 28



Gathering Hymn: We Are Called

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!

We are called to be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Welcome and Announcements

- First week back inside went well.
- Next week installation of Pastor Michele at both churches
- Continue to follow the plans laid out – keep your masks on and social distance
- Continue to send in your offerings if you are unable to attend and keep in touch – if you need something please reach out and invite friends to attend or watch!

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 judgement 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.

Prayer of the Day

**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**

Psalms 23 (Read Responsively)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. **He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;** he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff— they comfort me.** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

First Reading Isaiah 25:1-9

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. 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. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. 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, 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. 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. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; 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. 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.

### Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-14, **Glory to you O Lord**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 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.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' 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. "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. 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.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

### **Children's Message**

Have any of you ever given a party? Of course you have! We have all given a party at some time. Perhaps it was a birthday party, or a slumber party. Maybe you had a picnic or a costume party. No matter what kind of party you give, it is a lot of work to get ready for a party, isn't it? First, you have to decide what kind of a party you are going to have. Then you have to go out and buy the decorations or make them yourself. You have to plan what games you are going to play and make sure that you have all of the proper equipment for the games. Next you have to decide what you are going to serve and go to the store to buy refreshments. After you have made all the plans, you make a list of who you are going to invite and send out the invitations.

Have you ever planned a party and sent out the invitations, but no one showed up? Oh, I hope not! If that happened, how do you think it would make you feel? Would you be angry? Would your feelings be hurt? What do you think you might do?

Jesus once told about a king who threw a party, but none of the people he invited showed up for his party. In Jesus' story, the king was going to have a party for his Son who was getting married. Since he was a king, and this was his only son, you can imagine that it was going to be quite a celebration and it was a tremendous honor to be invited!

All of the plans had been made, the food was prepared, the invitations had been sent. The day of the celebration came, but no one showed up! The king sent his servants to see where the people were and why they had not come to his celebration. The people all began to make excuses about how busy they were.

The king was very upset, so he told his servants to go out into the streets and invite everyone they saw to come to his son's wedding celebration. They did exactly what the king told them to do and the Bible tells us that the wedding hall was filled with guests.

In this story, the King is God and, of course, Jesus is His Son. God is going to have a great celebration for His Son in Heaven and we have all been invited. I can't imagine why, but some people will turn down God's invitation. You've been invited -- I hope you will accept God's invitation.

Dear Father, thank you for inviting us to join you in your heavenly celebration. If there are any here today who have not accepted your invitation, we pray that today will be the day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Message**

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet – yes, we have another parable. As I was preparing for my message today I found a definition or explanation of what a Parable is and what is intend to be for us. It's written by a man named Martin Eligar and I'd like to share it with you as we continue to look at the parables and try to understand what Jesus is teaching us through them.

*At times Jesus spoke in parables. Parables begin as earthly stories, speaking about things we are familiar with, like a wedding banquet. There is a twist to the story that can turn up side down our familiar understanding and reveal something new. They end with the intent to reveal something spiritual, something about God's kingdom. Parables are very much like a riddle designed to tease us into seeking the spiritual truth, the Word of God. God promises to those who seek, who knock that they will find and the door will be opened to them. With perseverance a person can be rewarded with a wonderful treasure when confronted with a parable from Jesus.* I thought that really wrapped up what these beautiful and riddling stories are really all about.

Our parable today is all about a wedding. I sang and played for a wedding yesterday for a dear friend and will be officiating for another wedding next Saturday. They are so wonderful, so beautiful, so fun, so..... Let's be honest, they really are a lot of work! Think about all those plans and those RSVPs. If you haven't been involved in the plans – it is almost impossible to get those RSVPs sent back – and truthfully I am bad at responding myself at times. It's hard to plan though if you don't know who and how many are coming. How do you order food? How do you plan a seating arrangement? It's just hard to plan period if you don't hear back from your guests. This concept is a bit like the people in our parable today who don't bother to RSVP.

I have to admit I am mesmerized by the Royal Family of Great Britain. I was glued to my TV when Charles and Diana got married in 1981, I literally bawled when Diana was killed. I watched as William married Kate in 2011 and as Harry married Megan in 2018 – hard to believe that's over two years already. All that regal pomp and circumstance that went into those grand affairs. Millions of us watched on our TVs but you know not all of us had to watch it that way, some actually received invitations to these weddings – some rich, some famous, some powerful and of course, some royal. It would be something you clearly wouldn't ignore – an invite to a Royal Wedding would be something of honor and duty to attend. Our Gospel is a lot like these types of weddings. Our story has a king and is the wedding is of a son amongst other similarities we will see.

We are now on week 3 of Gospels having Jesus still at the temple and still confronting the leaders and priests over who has authority. Each and every parable Jesus is sharing is shaming and insulting them more and more and their anger continues to grow more and more with every word spoken. So as we look at our parable for this morning we need to keep that image and idea of confrontation front and center in our minds when looking at the purpose and meaning for this in our lives today.

Honestly, this is one of the harder parables to figure out. The king in this parable is identified by Jesus as the Kingdom of heaven. This king is not only kind and benevolent God but also a god who violently reacts to people who don't RSVP for the wedding banquet. This king invites EVERYONE – the good, the bad and the ugly as we've heard jokingly said at times – he invites us all and yet not ALL respond. What's worse is that someone did respond and comes under-dressed causing quite a commotion for the king. So much so that the King throws him out into the darkness. And what about the very last line of our parable "*for many are called, but few are chosen*" – to me that is not only unsettling but really confusing. All of the King's actions and reactions seem to be a bit much for my understanding. Can you imagine going to a wedding today and literally calling someone out to leave because they weren't wearing the right things? Or killing people because they didn't respond to their invitations? Burned down their dwellings and their cities because they didn't make the ceremony? Seems a bit extreme to all of us doesn't it??

We do however, need to remember that this wedding is taking place in the Middle East where their society is built around honor and yes, shame. Those that would've said no to the invitation would've brought shame to the king and he would therefore need to attempt to restore his honor. In that same line of thinking then Jesus is telling the religious leaders and Priests in the temple that they too have insulted and brought shame to God because of what they are doing in temple (their self-centered and twisted religious doings) and how they are rejecting God's son. Still, it seems a stretch for me to figure out how this can apply to my life today – how about you??

The Parable – our story – begins with a party. A celebration fit for a king and the marriage of his son. This is an image, in a sense, of how Jesus is portraying heaven. More than just those pearly gates we've been hearing about. More than just roads of gold and fluffy clouds. Heaven is a celebration – a celebration that we can all look to as an eternal party of life and grace. But wait – we really don't have to wait for that party until we die as we HAVE been invited to the party to celebrate life and grace right now.

You can find it over and over again in scripture where we are called to celebrate, to praise the Lord, to give thanks, and to worship God's love and grace in our lives. That never-ending presence of God in our lives should be celebrated daily, right? Sure we aren't always going to feel like partying, dancing and celebrating – there are indeed those times that aren't so easy or very good – but we can still live each and every date grateful and thankful for the gifts God has given us. The king in our story expands the invitation when he realizes some have ignored the invite to the good AND the bad. Everyone is invited to celebrate and even when God is shamed that doesn't mean he isn't still inviting ALL of us.

Think about the many times that you – and I have refused the invitation, or forgot to send the RSVP when God has asked us to celebrate and live our lives in gratitude. There are always those times when our worlds seem to be falling apart. Perhaps you find yourself overwhelmed and succumbing to the pressures of worry and concern. Listen for that whisper. That promise from God that "It's Ok, I've got you covered." The invite we all receive is to let go of what we worry and rather replace it with peace and joy and love. Celebrate the fact that you are never alone!

Or maybe its those times when you never seem to have enough time. Always rushing here and there getting to the next stop as quickly as possible and not taking the time to appreciate the journey. I have to admit this is a big one for me! God's with us in these crazy times to tell us to slow down – smell the roses as some may say. Celebrate life and remember to care for yourself. After all, even Jesus took some time for himself when he left the crowds to go away to rest and to pray. Allow yourself to put the brakes on now and then for you and for the time to accept the invitation to celebrate.

Maybe it's about times when you have been hurt or offended. Times when you or someone holds a grudge, withholds the forgiveness needed and limits the love that you share or are given. Jesus tells us to let go of those times too. Forgive or be forgiven and celebrate that same gift of love and forgiveness and grace that you have been promised too. Just like these times and all the rest – being a disciple of God is saying "yes" to the invitation – saying "yes" to the celebration.

The king in our story may have handled things a bit extreme – responded too aggressively and taken things far too personally. But the real King, the Lord of lords does the opposite – the King of kings acts

graciously and loving to us. God continually sends us invitations to the feast and to celebrate. All we need to do is accept the invitation. So will you RSVP? Amen

Special Hymn of the Day: Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"

Let the poor say, "I am rich

Because of what the Lord has done for us"

Give thanks

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen***

Prayers of the people (Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**)

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

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

Gracious host, as creation waits with longing for harvest and care we ask you to restore valleys, mountains, forests and pastures and still running waters. Watch over those dealing with fires and those dealing with storms. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, peace workers and world leaders who navigate conflict and conflict – especially those that continue to be conflicted regarding best practices and racial disparity. May leaders proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Though we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Alana and Jeff, like Kirk and Brent, like Paxley and Vern, like Veronica and Lisa and all of those that we now name in our own hearts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Words of Institution

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.

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

Meal

After Communion Prayer:

We give you thanks, gracious God that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place nourished and forgiven. Amen

Blessing

Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Amen.

Sending Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Sent forth by God's blessing. Our true faith confessing

The people of God from his dwelling take leave.

The supper is ended. Oh now be extended

The fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.

His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us to work for God's kingdom and answer his call.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

**Mark Your Calendars:**

Sunday October 11, (note date/time change) -Kirkebo council at 9:45. Nora council at 11:45

Sunday – October 18th – Installation of Pastor Michele. Nora – 9am service. Kirkebo – 11am service

Sunday – October 25th – Kirkebo – 9am service. Nora – 11am service.

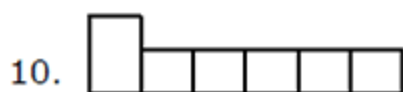
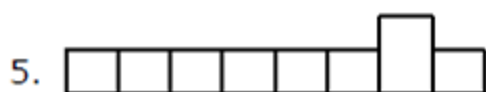
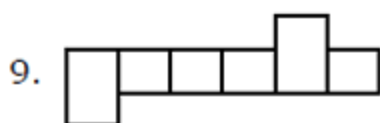
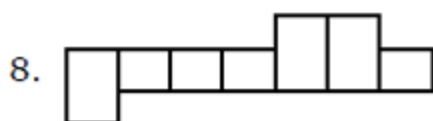
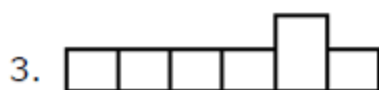
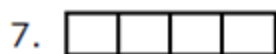
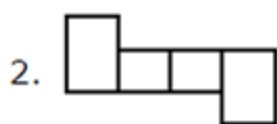
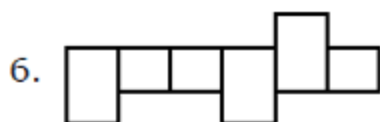
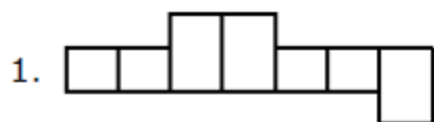


"Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see."

# The Wedding Banquet

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:10

Enter the correct words in the boxes based on the shape of the letters.



people  
parable

servants  
dinner

invite  
wedding

king  
come

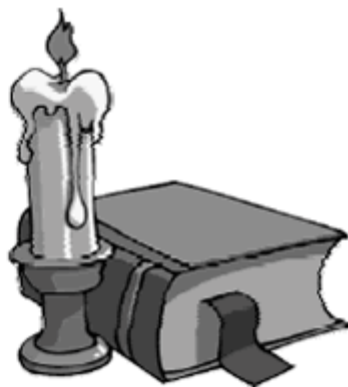
guests  
streets



# The Wedding Banquet

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:10

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
P	R	V	G	K	W	S	T	L	X	Q	E	A	D	H	F	B	N	C	O	U	I	J	Y	M	Z

1. 4-21-12-7-8-7 \_\_\_\_\_

2. 22-18-3-22-8-12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

3. 14-22-18-18-12-2 \_\_\_\_\_

4. 1-13-2-13-17-9-12 \_\_\_\_\_

5. 6-12-14-14-22-18-4 \_\_\_\_\_

6. 7-12-2-3-13-18-8-7 \_\_\_\_\_

7. 17-13-18-11-21-12-8 \_\_\_\_\_

8. 2-12-16-21-7-12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

INVITED	WEDDING	BANQUET	DINNER
SERVANTS	GUESTS	PARABLE	REFUSED

# The Wedding Banquet

So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. Matthew 22:10

Based on Matthew 22:1-14 (NIV)



R U D N Q C O R N E R S E L C  
Z N E I K P M P G U E S T S V  
N X D O N O A E Z G T P N Z S  
O Q P N D N L R C B J D E P E  
B P Z G W T E T A O X V B U R  
X A N R T I E R U B M S A G V  
H I N A R E B W I K L E M R A  
K R C Q R C A E N J C E T Q N  
H Z U T U Z H D V L Q G S G T  
E F S G T E W D I C Q M B F S  
A T F L N S T I T S I Y M I T  
V K L E L K L N E B E D R L P  
E Z R K P S O G D X S R S L I  
N D U T R E F U S E D Q L E J  
N W A U D V I Z T N P J G D L

PARABLES  
GUESTS  
SERVANTS  
FILLED

STREET  
HEAVEN  
CATTLE  
REFUSED

INVITED  
KINGDOM  
COME  
WEDDING

BANQUET  
CORNERS  
OXEN  
DINNER