

Preparing for the Banquet of Heaven

October 22, 2023



Twenty-first Week
after Pentecost

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – We focus our attention on the wedding banquet of the Bride the Church with her groom, Christ. In that heavenly banquet, we will rejoice because Christ's righteousness covers us of all our sins; this is not of ourselves but entirely by God's grace and mercy. All are called to the banquet; many reject their invitation, and few enter. No one can enter by their own actions; it is only by faith in our Savior.

MORNING PRAYER: Almighty and merciful God, absolve Your people from their offenses; that by your bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bonds of sin, which because of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION– CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#98

JESUS, I WILL PONDER NOW

****Please Stand for the Last Verse****



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On your ho - ly
2 Make me see your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af -
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see your
4 If my sins give me a - harm And my con - science
5 Grant that I your pas - sion view With re - pent - ant



pas - sion; With your Spir - it me en - dow
flic - tion, Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness
pas - sion, But its cause to me make known
grieve me, Let your cross my fear dis - arm;
griev - ing. Let me not bring shame to you



For such med - i - ta - tion. Grant that I in love
And your cru - ci - fix - ion; Make me see how scourge
And its ter - mi - na - tion. Ah! I al - so and
Peace of con - science give me. Help me see for - give -
By un - ho - ly liv - ing. How could I re - fuse



and faith May the im - age cher - ish Of your suf -
and rod, Spear and nails did wound you, How for them
my sin Wrought your deep af - flic - tion; This in - deed
ness won By your ho - ly pas - sion. If for me
to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful pleas - ure Since for me



f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.
the cause has been Of your cru - ci - fix - ion.
he slays his Son, God must have com - pas - sion!
God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out meas - ure?

6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from you,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give you love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing your praise forever.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN (76 76 D Trochaic) Melchior Vulpitus, c. 1570–1615, alt.



In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

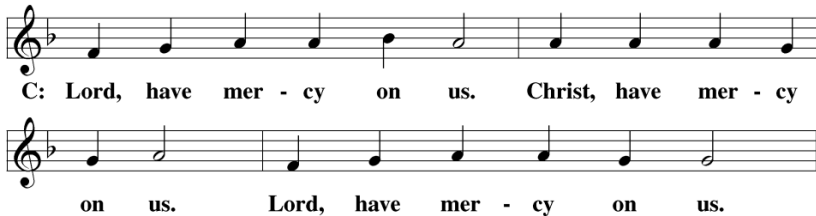
CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 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.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
 sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the
 sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, absolve Your people from their offenses; that by you bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bonds of sin, which because of our weakness we have brought upon ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 25: 6 – 9

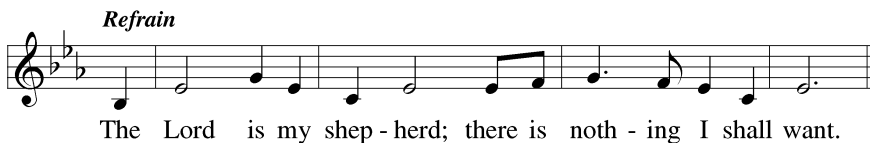
In the banquet feast of heaven about which Isaiah is prophesying, the shroud of death is destroyed once and for all. Death came to all people because all have sinned, but Jesus, our Redeemer, restores us back to the Father through his righteousness; by faith in Christ, we are restored.

On this mountain, the Lord of Armies will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of aged wines, with the best cuts of meat, and with the finest wines. On this

mountain, he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples, the burial cloth stretched over all nations. He has swallowed up death forever! The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face. He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth. For the Lord has spoken. On that day, it will be said, "Look, here is our God! We waited for him, and he saved us! This is the Lord. We waited for him. Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!"

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 23



Refrain

The LORD is my shepherd,*
 I shall not be in want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside quiet waters.
 He restores my soul;*
 he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
 You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,*
 and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

PHILIPPIANS 4: 4 – 14

Rejoice in the Lord! Paul's refrain echoes through these verses to focus our attention on Christ. Paul reminds us that this happens through prayer, petition, and thanksgiving; we bring all our needs and wants before God in prayer, demonstrating our dependency on the Lord. We are content knowing that he will provide us with everything we need.

Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if anything is excellent, and if anything is praiseworthy, think about these things. The things that you learned, received, heard, and saw in me: Keep doing these things. And the God of peace will be with you.

I rejoice greatly in the Lord now that you have revived your concern for me once again. Actually, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I lack anything; in fact, I have learned to be content in any circumstances in which I find myself. I know what it is to live in humble circumstances, and I know what it is to have more than enough. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, while being full or hungry, while having plenty or not enough. I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me. Nevertheless, you did well by becoming partners with me in my affliction.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Alleluia. (Philippians 4: 4)



GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22: 1 – 14

Our lesson is the wedding feast parable and the third parable directed towards the religious leaders. We see God's mercy in this parable that even with their rejection of Him, the Christ, Jesus still tries to turn them from unbelief to repent of their sins. With this parable, He tells them what the kingdom of heaven is like; many do not enter because they reject God's invitation.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come.

“Then he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!’”

Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?' The man was speechless. Then the king told the servants, 'Tie 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."



Nicene Creed

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

*****Please Be Seated*****

HYMN OF THE DAY

#399

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!
 2 Oh, per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3 Great things he has taught us, great things he has done,

He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,
 To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son,

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin
 The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,
 But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
 Our joy and our won - der when Je - sus we see.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son

And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, alt.

Tune: TO GOD BE THE GLORY (11 11 11 11 with Refrain) William H. Doane, 1832–1915.

SERMON TEXT

SERMON:

MATTHEW 22: 1 – 14

INVITED TO THE BANQUET

CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

Please Be Seated

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH’S MISSION

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, and for opportunities to worship and grow in faith and knowledge.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us speak the truth in love, to give the reason for our hope.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ in our own neighborhoods and the areas in Deschutes County.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits.

Move us to support missionaries at home and overseas with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Silent prayer

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others so we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.

*****Please Be Seated*****


DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#397


JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
5 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,



But that thy blood was shed for me
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;



And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
To whose and blood can cleanse each spot,
Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
Be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down.
 Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871.

Tune: WOODWORTH (LM) William B. Bradbury, 1816–68.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.



C: It is good and right so to do.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



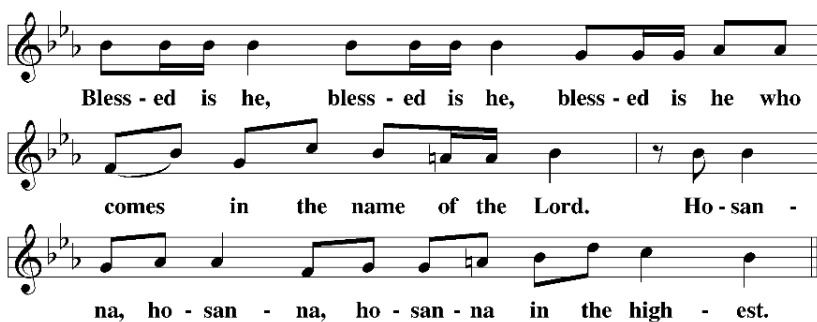
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

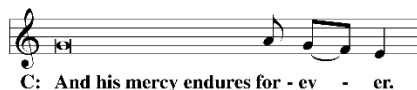
DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it, you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



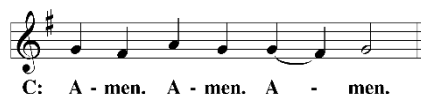
C: A - men.

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.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#452

LET US EVER WALK WITH JESUS

1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, Fol - low his ex -
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, To his im - age
 3 Let us al - so die with Je - sus, His death from the
 4 Let us glad - ly live with Je - sus; Since he's ris - en

am - ple pure, Flee the world which would de - ceive us
 e'er con - form; Heav - en's glo - ry soon will please us,
 sec - ond death, From our soul's de - struc - tion, frees us,
 from the dead, Death and grave must soon re - lease us.

And to sin our souls al - lure. Ev - er in his
 Sun - shine fol - low on the storm. Though we sow in
 Quick - ens us with life's glad breath. Let us mor - ti -
 Je - sus, thou art now our head. We are tru - ly

foot - steps tread - ing, Bod - y here, yet soul a - bove,
 tears of sor - row, We shall reap in heav'n - ly joy,
 fy, while liv - ing, Flesh and blood and die to sin,
 thine own mem - bers; Where thou liv - est, there live we.

Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the
 And the fears that now an - noy Shall be laugh - ter
 And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the
 Take and own us con - stant - ly, Faith - ful Friend, as

Fa - ther's bid - ding. Faith - ful Lord, a - bide with me.
 on the mor - row. Christ, I suf - fer here with thee;
 gate to heav - en. Je - sus, here I die to thee,
 thy dear breth - ren. Je - sus, here I live to thee,

Sav - ior, lead; I fol - low thee.
 There, oh, share thy joy with me.
 There to live e - ter - nal - ly.
 Al - so there e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. J. Adam Rimbach, 1871–1941, alt.
 Tune: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN (87 87 877 877) Georg G. Boltze, 18th century, alt.

What We Believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment, and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

LMSG Retreat – October 25 – 30 Pastor Emmons will preach for the LMSG retreat at Camp Shiloh, Texas. There will be no communion on October 29. If you have any pastoral needs in his absence, you may contact his cell phone; for more pressing concerns needing immediate care, contact Elder Gene Baldwin at 541-610-9978.

Trifolds – They are in the back; we have plenty; please feel free to pass them out to your neighbors. You can take as many as you would like to pass out (leave them in a grocery cart or at your favorite restaurant.)

Sunday Morning Bible Study – we will not have Sunday morning Bible Study on October 29, but we will resume our study of the Book of Acts on November 5. However, should you have questions regarding the reformation, please email them to Pastor Emmons before that Sunday so he can address them. Please feel free to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary.

Midweek Bible Study – Tuesday night Bible Study will resume at 6:00 PM November 7; you may either come in person to the pastor's home: 4384 SW 36th ST, Redmond, or you can reach us via Zoom with the following ID and password.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Thanksgiving Eve/Advent Services – It is almost the close of the church year with the End Times celebration, which means a new church year and advent. Our Wednesday evening services begin with Thanksgiving Eve Service at 7 PM on Wednesday, November 22. Our Advent services will begin on November 29 with a 6 PM soup supper; please contact Penny Port to sign up for a soup or dessert. We will have as many soup suppers as we have volunteers.

Thanksgiving Potluck - Save the date for our Annual Thanksgiving potluck to be held November 19 following service. Next week, we will have a sign-up for the meal, which is a little more orchestrated than our typical potluck.

Pastor: Roger Emmons

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