

## We Join Together in Worship

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church – Dickinson, ND  
Sunday, October 9, 2011 – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### Gathering

Prelude, Welcome, Announcements, Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives our sin, heals every illness, saves us from death, enfolds us with tender care, and crowns us with steadfast love. **Amen.**

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

**we confess that we are more ready to be forgiven than to forgive others.**

**We hold too closely your gifts to us. We trample your vineyard, our good earth. Have mercy, O God; turn us again to you and toward others; and grant that we may live for you and die in you, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

God is generous and faithful, forgiving sins without number, welcoming all to the feast, giving us a place among the saints. Through the humble obedience of + Christ Jesus, who went to the cross for our sake, you are forgiven and made whole. The Spirit of God is at work in you, enabling you to live for one another. **Amen.**

Processional Hymn – *Have You Thanked the Lord?* ..... **#829**

Kyrie & Canticle of Praise (*This is the Feast.... Page 122*) .....Page 120

Prayer of the Day

(10:30 a.m.) KINDERGARTEN MILESTONE MINISTRY: Learning the Lord's Prayer

### Word

Scripture Readings – see insert (*response: The word of the Lord; Thanks be to God.*)

Psalm Tone: 

Gospel Acclamation .....Page 124

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

(Verse) **This is the LORD for whom<sup>1</sup> we have waited;\***

**let us be glad and rejoice in<sup>1</sup> God's salvation. (Isa. 25:9)**

Gospel *(before reading: **Glory to you, O Lord.** after reading: **Praise to you, O Christ!**)*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day – *Now We Join in Celebration*.....**#462**

(8:00 a.m.) Apostles' Creed, Prayers, Greetings of Peace .....Page 127

(10:30 a.m.) Service of Holy Baptism.....Page 227

*Gathered as the Body-of-Christ, we are joined into a fellowship and a Holy Communion*

## Meal

Offering and Offertory Hymn – *Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring* ..... **#691, v. 1 & 3**

**1 Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring, to place up-on your table.**

**We do not wor-ship as we ought, but only as we're able.**

**3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares, we lift in prayer be-fore you.**

**Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we a-dore you.**

Prayer and Great Thanksgiving *(Holy, Holy – Page 130)*.....Page 129

Lord's Prayer *(left column)*, "Lamb of God" Hymn .....Page 135

Distribution of Bread and Wine ..... **#479, #692 (twice), #693**

*All the baptized are welcomed to receive the bread and wine offered in our Communion Meal.*

*Please come forward down the center aisle (in two lines). Take a place at the rail as space*

*becomes available. Receive the bread and wine. Return by the outside aisles. As God's*

*people we are empowered to BE the presence of Christ in the world.*

Communion Blessing and Prayer

## Sending

Blessing and Hymn – *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* ..... **#545**

**1 Lord, dis-miss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;**

**Let us each, your love possessing, triumph in redeem-ing grace.**

**Oh, refresh us; oh, re-fresh us, travl'ing through this wil-der-ness.**

Dismissal – Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

# St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

146 Sixth Ave. West – Dickinson, ND 58601

701-225-6747

Website: [StJohnELC.org](http://StJohnELC.org)

*Mission: “Living in Service to Christ”*

*Worship: 7 p.m. on Thursday // 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. on Sunday  
(10:30 a.m. Sunday Service Broadcast on KDIX Radio)*

## For Sunday, October 9, 2011

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Presiding Minister: Pastor Lisa Lewton  
Preaching: Dale Nabben  
Assisting Ministers: Gayle Homiston (Thursday)  
Jan Wilkie (8:00 a.m.)  
Dawn Anton (10:30 a.m.)  
Deacons: Marcy Decker (8:00 a.m.)  
Betty Duttenhefer (10:30 a.m.)  
Organist: Barb Arneson  
Cantor: Cheryl Hewson (8:00 a.m.)  
Servers: Chelsea Anderson (Thursday)  
Shellby Collins & Jaxson Kukowski (8:00 a.m.)  
Skylar Dockter & Kaina Gartner (10:30 a.m.)

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP:** All the baptized people of God are invited to the Lord’s Table. You may stand or kneel to receive the elements. Children who commune should extend their hands to receive the elements. Children who are not communing are asked to have hands folded to receive a blessing. *You may ask a server to provide a gluten-free wafer or grape juice if needed.* Come to the table; all are welcomed!

**WORSHIP INFORMATION:** Attendance last week was 295 . . . Transmitters are available for the hearing impaired. Ask an usher for help . . . If it is uncomfortable for you to stand during the service, please feel free to remain seated . . . If you are a visitor, or if you simply forgot your offering envelope and wish to designate your contribution, please use a **pew envelope** . . . The nursery is located in the Commons Area. *Children’s worship bags are available during worship in the Commons Area and in the church entry.*

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

(Check out our website for more information at [www.stjohnelc.org](http://www.stjohnelc.org))

*Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. Quilting*  
*Wednesday: 6:30 p.m. Church School*  
*7:00 p.m. Mentor Groups*  
*7:00 p.m. New Member Orientation*  
*Thursday: 5:45 p.m. Yoga/Upstairs*  
*7:00 p.m. Midweek Worship*  
*7:30 p.m. Council Meeting*  
*Friday: 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Ramada*  
*Saturday: 9:30 a.m. Circle 6/Fellowship Room*  
*Next Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. Worship*  
*9:15 a.m. Church School*  
*11:30 a.m. New Member Luncheon*  
*3:30 p.m. Hand Bell Practice*  
*7:00 p.m. Senior High Youth Group*

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**BAPTIZED SUNDAY IS** Lola Sophia Quinn Kilwein, daughter of Kayla Ziemann and Jesse Kilwein. Her sponsors are Laney Herauf, Jordan Mork, Justin Kilwein and Jacob Steiner.

**THANK YOU** to Pastor Steve Schou, pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, for preaching and presiding at worship on Thursday, Oct. 6. Thanks, also, to Pastor Dale Nabben, who recently retired after serving as chaplain at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center in Bismarck, for preaching on Oct. 9.

**A NOTE TO ARTISTS IN THE PEWS:** If you have artistic talent you would like to share, please do so using the scratch paper in the worship bags, and not the cards in the pew racks.

**FAITH IN ACTION, BE THE CHURCH:** Our Fall Stewardship Campaign comes to a close on Oct. 6 & 9 as we recognize Stewardship Sunday. We will see a slide show of photos from Serving Sunday, when the congregation shared God's blessings by *being the church* in our community and we will complete pledge cards. **Consider and pray about what you will pledge to give when your 2012 pledge card arrives in the mail. We hope to receive 350 pledges at worship on Thursday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 9 at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m.**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6 AND SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9:**

- Pledges will be received for 2012 giving at worship
- Pledges from Church School children will be received during Church School class on Oct. 9 and 16.
- Pledges from junior high school students will be received during mentor groups on Wednesday, Oct. 12.

**THANK YOU TO THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE** for their faithful work preparing for the Fall Stewardship Campaign: Faith in Action, Be the Church! The committee included: Tasha Gartner, Candace Stanton, Jill Healy, Marcus Lewton, Carla Mortenson, Michelle Richard, Juli Wanner, Faith Simonieg, and Pam Weidner. **THANK YOU to everyone who participated in our second Serving Sunday. We believe that approximately 250 people participated. Final numbers are still being reported. Thank you to everyone who so generously shared donated items, time and talents to helping others in our community.**

**DAVE ANDERON AND KELLY PATTON:** Do you remember back in January, when these two men led worship songs and Dave shared the story of surviving a plane crash in the Beiring Sea? If you missed them, or if you would like to hear them again, they will be performing at Our Savior's Lutheran on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7 p.m.

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING St. John Lutheran Church?**

We invite you to get to know our church family and we hope you will consider making St. John your church home. Everyone who becomes a member is expected to attend the new member sessions to learn more about the church. St. John is offering a fall orientation session for new members. If you are interested in membership, please call the church office (225-6747), visit our website at [stjohnelc.org](http://stjohnelc.org) or contact a pastor.

**MILESTONE MINISTRY EVENT** for kindergarten students "Learning the Lord's Prayer" will continue on Sunday, October 9 at 9:15 a.m. in the basement. A parent or caregiver should attend with the student.

**MILESTONE MINISTRY EVENT** for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders "Learning the Ten Commandments" will be held on Sunday, October 16 & 30 at 9:15 a.m. in the basement. A parent or caregiver should attend with the student.

**ADULT SUNDAY CLASS** meets at 9:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Room. Sunday, Oct. 9 we will use the Faith in Action Small Group material. Thanks to Kathi Nygaard for facilitating! Rick Tabert from Thrivent Financial will present on the topic, “Do One Thing Differently” on Oct. 16. Dale and Glenice Hansen will facilitate the video series, “How Lutherans Interpret the Bible,” by Mark Allen Powell, on Oct. 23 and 30, and several Sundays in November.

**LYO INKIND OFFERING:** Senior high youth are collecting items for Camp Noah kits. Camp Noah is a five-day camp experience which offers a safe, caring environment with curriculum specifically designed to help children heal by processing their disaster experience. Camp Noah is a part of Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota and will be offered in Minot in the spring/summer of 2012. Items needed for each kit are:

- 8-pack of washable markers
- Pencil, erase + pencil sharpener
- Container of play-dough
- Pack of watercolor paints
- 24-pack of crayons
- Gluestick
- Youth-sized scissors
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There are collection baskets in the Commons Area and the narthex through Oct. 13. You may bring some *or* all of the items for each kit.

**VISITATION:** Would like to join in the visitation ministry, keeping homebound members connected to the life of the church? The opportunity is to visit and bring Communion to one homebound member each month. Currently, five homebound visitors are needed. Contact Faith Simonieg or Pastor Lisa at 225-6747 if you are interested.

**NOON BIBLE STUDY:** Beginning on Wednesday, Oct. 19, there will be a Bible study that will be held from 12:10 p.m. until 12:50 p.m. At the first meeting, we will decide how often we would like to meet and also what material we would like to study. Several options will be explored. Bring a sack lunch if you’d like and join us! Question? Contact Jodeen Myers at 225-6747.

**BUTTERBRAIDS:** Students attending bible camp at Badlands Ministries next summer can lower the cost of their registration by selling butterbraids. Butterbraid order forms are available on the Commons Area bulletin board. Orders are due by **Sun., Oct. 23**. Questions? Contact Jodeen Myers at 225-6747, or [myers@stjohnelc.org](mailto:myers@stjohnelc.org).

**CONFIRMATION MENTOR GROUPS:** Meet on Wednesday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. All confirmation students are expected to attend.

**POPCORN AND A MOVIE:** If you were unable to be a part of Serving Sunday, or even if you were, here is another option to serve and help others! We are collecting *new* “family friendly” DVDs and popcorn to send to the families who were affected by the flooding in Minot. Please drop them off in the baskets in the Commons Area and narthex by Sunday, November 13. Monetary donations will also be accepted to purchase DVDs.

Sunday, October 9, 2011  
Lectionary 28  
Proper 23  
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

**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 that 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**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives our sin, heals every illness,  
saves us from death, enfolds us with tender care,  
and crowns us with steadfast love.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of abundant mercy,  
**we confess that we are more ready  
to be forgiven than to forgive others.  
We hold too closely your gifts to us.  
We trample your vineyard, our good earth.  
Have mercy, O God;  
turn us again to you and toward others;  
and grant that we may live for you and die in you,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.  
Amen.**

God is generous and faithful,  
forgiving sins without number,

welcoming all to the feast,  
giving us a place among the saints.  
Through the humble obedience of + Christ Jesus,  
who went to the cross for our sake,  
you are forgiven and made whole.  
The Spirit of God is at work in you,  
enabling you to live for one another.  
**Amen.**

## **GREETING**

Grace and peace from our God and Father,  
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the consolation of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW)**

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.

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY (LBW)**

Almighty God, source of every blessing, your generous goodness comes to us anew every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (101)

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW)**

Alleluia. This is the LORD for whom <sup>1</sup> we have waited;\*  
let us be glad and rejoice in <sup>1</sup> God's salvation. Alleluia. (Isa. 25:9)

## **VERSE (LBW)**

Alleluia. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Alleluia. (Isa. 25:9)

## READINGS

Isaiah 25:1–9

Exodus 32:1–14 (Semi-continuous)

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23 (Semi-continuous)

Remember, O LORD, the favor you have for your people. (Ps. 106:4)

Philippians 4:1–9

Matthew 22:1–14

### 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 everyone up—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

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.\

### **FIRST READING (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Exodus 32:1–14**

*After Israel sinned by worshipping the golden calf, Moses interceded with God to spare Israel, lest the Egyptians conclude that God had evil intents in the Exodus. Moses reminds God of the promises God made to Israel's matriarchs and patriarchs.*

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." <sup>2</sup>Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup>So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup>He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" <sup>5</sup>When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD." <sup>6</sup>They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup>they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup>Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup>But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup>Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup>Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" <sup>14</sup>And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

**PSALM (ELW): Psalm 23**

*You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)*

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

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down <sup>1</sup> in green pastures  
and leads me be- <sup>1</sup> side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my <sup>1</sup> soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways <sup>1</sup> for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I shall <sup>1</sup> fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they <sup>1</sup> comfort me. R**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence <sup>1</sup> of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is <sup>1</sup> running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days <sup>1</sup> of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the <sup>1</sup> LORD forever. R**

**PSALM (ELW) (SEMI-CONTINUOUS): Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23**

*Remember, O LORD, the favor you have for your people. (Ps. 106:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Give thanks to the LORD, for the <sup>1</sup> LORD is good,  
for God's mercy en- <sup>1</sup> dures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Who can declare the mighty acts <sup>1</sup> of the LORD  
or proclaim in <sup>1</sup> full God's praise? R**

<sup>3</sup>Happy are those who <sup>1</sup> act with justice  
and always do <sup>1</sup> what is right.

<sup>4</sup>**Remember me, O LORD, with the favor you have <sup>1</sup> for your people,  
and visit me with <sup>1</sup> your salvation;**

<sup>5</sup>that I may see the prosperity of your elect  
and be glad with the gladness <sup>1</sup> of your people,  
that I may glory with <sup>1</sup> your inheritance.

<sup>6</sup>**We have sinned as our <sup>1</sup> forebears did;  
we have done wrong <sup>1</sup> and dealt wickedly. R**

<sup>19</sup>They made a bull- <sup>1</sup> calf at Horeb  
and worshiped a <sup>1</sup> molten image;

<sup>20</sup>**thus they ex- <sup>1</sup> changed their glory  
for the image of an ox that <sup>1</sup> feeds on grass.**

<sup>21</sup>They forgot | God their Savior,  
who had done great | things in Egypt,  
<sup>22</sup>**wonderful deeds in the | land of Ham,  
and fearful things | at the Red Sea.**  
<sup>23</sup>So you would have destroyed them,  
had not Moses your chosen stood | in the breach,  
to turn away your wrath from con- | suming them. **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.*

Therefore, 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.

## **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.*

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."

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

In grateful response to God's endless bounty of grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, unite the wills of your people. Empower us to be of the same mind in the Lord, so that through word and deed we might give faithful witness to you. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator of valleys and green pastures, of small towns and urban centers, give your care to this world. Inspire in us, your creatures, a love for all you have made, and grant us wisdom to care for it. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God of all people, establish your peace in the world. Give the leaders of the nations a desire for reconciliation and a yearning for justice. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, lead all who are sick to the healing waters of your mercy. Bless the work of doctors, nurses, and caregivers, and through their efforts restore the sick to health (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy God, by your power grant this congregation the faith to stand firm in Jesus Christ. Send your Spirit to this place, so that through all its ministries your wisdom and truth might be made known. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of blessed hope, comfort those who grieve with the promise of new life in Christ Jesus (*especially*). Give us the blessed assurance that you will swallow up death forever. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, holy God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come, you that are blessed by God.  
Come to the banquet.

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God our shepherd,  
you have gathered us again from scattered places  
and nourished us with rich food in word and sacrament.  
Go with us now, that we may seek the lost,  
bind up the injured, and strengthen the weak,  
until you gather us and all the saints into your eternal feast  
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING OF COMMUNION**

Gracious God, you took the form of a servant,  
offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength

to a sick and hurting world.  
Anoint with a servant heart  
those who take your word and sacrament  
to our sisters and brothers  
*in their homes/in prisons/in hospitals.*  
Grant grace, mercy, healing, and hope to those  
who feast on your body and blood  
and receive your words of new life.  
May we all recognize that we have a place and a home  
in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The peace of God,  
which surpasses all understanding,  
+ guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.  
**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Lord is near.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, October 10, 2011**

**Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1996 (TFF)**

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

**Saturday, October 15**

**Teresa of Ávila (Teresa de Jesús), teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582**

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.