

A stylized, light green plant graphic is positioned on the left side of the page. It features a central stem with several long, narrow leaves pointing upwards and outwards. The leaves are simple, teardrop-shaped outlines. The entire graphic is rendered in a light green color that matches the background's overall tone.

Time after Pentecost

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 11, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Now We Join the Celebration

Text: Joel W. Lundeen, 1918-1990; Music: Johann Cruger, 1598-1662

Now we join in celebration at our Savior's invitation,
dressed no more in spirit somber, clothed instead in joy and wonder;
for the Lord of all existence, putting off divine transcendence,
stoops again in love to meet us, with his very life to feed us.

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PM: Trusting in the word of life given in baptism, we gather in the name of God, the Father, the Son and The Holy Spirit. Most merciful God, you know our failings better than we do; our sins are revealed in the light of your face. Our days and years pass by and the things we trust fade like grass. Guide us again to the water of life, and renew in us the grace of holy baptism. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

GREETING

PM: 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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

Music: *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near, joining in glad adoration!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Lord of the feast,

C: 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.

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O 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. ²For 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. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For 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, ⁵the 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.

⁶On 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. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; ⁸he 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. ⁹It 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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, 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.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, 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. ⁹Keep 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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Text: International Commission on English in the Liturgy

Music: Howard Hughes, b. 1930

You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptized.

Alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again 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.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then 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.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

A Gown for Life

Pastor Jim Kruse

We did something here at Our Savior Lutheran Church last Sunday morning that, as far as I can tell, has never been done before. We held a party in our parking lot. At least it was a kind of party. A handful of us were outside by the front door offering Holy Communion to people as they drove by in their cars.

Because we had never offered a drive through communion here before, we had no idea how to plan for it. We knew we wanted to use our own bread and our own wine, but we knew we could not use our usual distribution methods of kneeling around the altar railing, and passing a plate of little pieces of bread, and taking tiny cups of wine or juice from a silver tray. None of that was going to work. So we had to create something entirely new. And that is what we did.

But more than anything else about our Holy Communion party at OSLC is that we had no idea who would show up, or how many there would be. And more importantly, we made no attempt to find out. When things are being done here the way things are usually done here, there would have been a sign-up sheet on a clipboard, and someone would have circulated around trying to get a few commitments from a few key people. There would have been an estimate as to how much bread and wine to prepare. But the planners of our drive-through communion did not do any of those things. What if there had been a hundred people show up and we ran out of bread and wine? Or what if, like the party that Jesus describes in today's Gospel reading, no one showed up? Wouldn't we look foolish?

This idea, that you can throw a party and invite a bunch of people to come, and then nobody shows up, Jesus suggests in today's Gospel, is a good metaphor for the way God deals with us on a regular basis: A king wants to have a wedding party for his son, Jesus says. So he gets everything ready. The king even sends out servants to pick up the guests and give them a ride to the party. Some folks politely said, “I'm too busy. And some folks didn't like

being reminded and beat up the king's servants. But in the end, no one comes.

The king is so hurt, Jesus says, that he sends soldiers to destroy those who had been invited. Then he opens the banquet hall to anyone and everyone, good and bad, wealthy and poor, noble or pauper. Anyone who is willing to show up at the celebration can do so. The only requirement is that they take the invitation seriously. You have to really want to be there, and you have to really want to have fun.

Jesus tells this story to the religious leaders of his day, just days before he is arrested and crucified, in order to show them how they have abused the invitation to live into and out of God's good and gracious presence in the world. But, for the very same reason, Jesus could just as well be talking to us, thousands of years later. When things are going tough, sure, we show up, and we are thankful for God's presence to see us through. But most of the time, because things are just fine, we don't think very much about it. Most of the time we are so busy providing for our own welfare, that we don't give God the time and attention a good party requires. Our first inclination is to always believe that we can make our own way in life. We believe that we can create our own parties, we can manage our own schedules, and we can put out our signup sheets and control who is going to show up.

It is not so bad, I guess, when we are simply ignoring God's role in our lives. After all, God is still going to continue to be God. And we will eventually get around to acknowledging that. The problem comes, however, when we get so focused on our own lives and our own futures that we get irritated by even being invited to something else, something outside our own little sphere of control. And ignore God's presence and influence in our lives. We ignore the invitation and we abuse the messengers who come to pick us up.

What does that look like? Well, we abuse God's messengers when we sink into sadness or despair about the events of our lives. There are painful and tragic things that happening in our lives and in the lives of those around us. Everyone knows that. There is a serious, life-threatening illness hanging over us. Relationships are strained and breaking. People are losing their jobs and possessions. People are losing their lives. And fires and storms are adding to the tumult. We abuse and kill the messengers of God when we fail to see God as actively working to get us through these tough times. And instead, we start to believe that this is the best it is ever going to get. There is no forgiveness. There is no grace. There is no future. There is no heavenly party. It is all just a cruel joke.

There is a curious twist that comes at the end of the story that Jesus is telling today that easily catches us off guard, as it did the original hearers of the story. There is a man at the party who was brought in off the street but is not properly dressed. It is not that he just did not have any good clothes. In the setting and culture of the story, the host, the king, provides the formal attire as part of generally accepted hospitality. It is just that this man has refused to put on the celebration garment he was given upon arrival. It is an insult beyond imagination. When the king discovers him, the man is quickly bound up and thrown out into the dark cold night.

It is when we find ourselves exposed as people who just cannot come to giving our whole selves over to God—people who are trying to sneak through life without putting on the robe—that we are also most ready to hear what God is doing in Jesus the Christ. The life of Christ, the death of Christ, the resurrection of Christ, and our baptism into that death and

resurrection, is God's final, desperate act get us in on what God is doing. For in this exchange, Christ becomes the one who refuses to put on the robe for us. As we pass through the waters of baptism, Christ is the one who makes sure that we get in, even if we were not invited, providing us with the baptismal gown for the rest of our lives. Christ is the one who goes into the place of "outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth," making sure we are properly attired, exchanging our lives for his.

Because of Jesus the Christ of God we eat from the banquet table food that we prepared for someone else. And because of Christ, regardless of what happens to us, our future is bright.

The words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians are more than just encouragement to participate in some kind of positive thinking. They become the words of God's great celebration, organized on our behalf. "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication 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, 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. 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."

Many are called. Be assured that, in Christ, you have been chosen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Day of Rest and Gladness

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

Music: German melody, 18th cent., adapt. X.L. Hartig *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

O day of rest and gladness, O day of joy and light,
O balm for care and sadness, most beautiful, most bright:
on you the high and lowly, through ages joined in tune,
sing, "Holy, holy, holy," to the great God triune.
New graces ever gaining from this our day of rest,
We reach the rest remaining to spirits of the blest.
We sing to you our praises, O Father, Spirit, Son;
the church its voice upraises to you, blest Three in One.

OFFERING

Please take a moment to give thanks to God for all that you have received in life, and remember your generous financial support of the ongoing ministry obligations of OSLC.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: God of majesty, in your might you have created all things, and you entrust to our care what you have made. Receive our offerings, and make them a sign of our dedication to provide for the needs of all people and creatures, in the name of the one who sustains all things by his word, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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 catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your precious gift of life; embrace us in your love; sustain us when we are feeling broken; and open our hearts to hear your call.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We pray for those who are hungry. Stir us to action to lift up our neighbors and seek policies that support them. We give thanks for our partnership with ELCA World Hunger - helping us find sustainable solutions to end hunger and provide nourishment domestically and abroad.

+ We lift up all parents who are balancing working and helping children do their school work from home. Grant strength, patience, wise discernment, and grace in the midst of these challenging days. May we find ways to provide for each other. To give support, encouragement, care, space for grace, and permission to make necessary shifts.

+ We pray for those living in the wake of natural disasters. We are mindful of the wildfires experienced in California, Oregon and Washington. Grant safety and endurance as people recover and rebuild.

+ We lift up people for whom insecurity and violence are a daily experience. Help us to bring healing and safety to all.

+ God of Mercy, help us recognize our prejudices and empower us to eliminate racism in our church and community. O God, help us to behold one another as you behold us.

+ We lift up all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, firefighters, and police. Grant them strength, endurance, and safety.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

+ We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Ron, Carol, JD, Marlene, Nancy, Carmen; Doyle and his family, Scott, Gwynn & Don, Jeremy, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie

+ We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: grant peace to those who have lost family and friends; provide healing for those who test positive; protect and sustain care providers and chaplains; guide the work to improve testing and work toward a vaccine;

sustain those who have lost their jobs and their businesses; and help us to be wise when we go out in public and catch up with friends.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are fearful or in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for people who are experiencing domestic violence.

+ We lift up those experiencing anxiety, depression, and other mental health challenges. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are loved. You are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

We pray for those who are grieving:

+ Loving God, wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss, disconnection, or brokenness. We lift up the family and friends of Talton, Jean, Dee, Marlene, Nikki, Dick, Germaine, and Bob.

We pray for your church:

+ We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them creativity for their work; give them grace to rest when needed.

+ We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those ministries that are part of our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.

+ We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where it is that you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

PM: The life-giving God, who sets us free in Christ, encourage you with the presence of the Holy Spirit and + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Choral Song — S.S.Wesley

Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Teresa of Ávila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582, Thursday, October 15

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.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115, Saturday, October 17

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Jen Winslow
Song Leaders:	Lori Downey, Jan Hazelton, Alice Lewis
Music Director:	Jan Hazelton
Videographer:	Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor:	Dave Carlson
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Isaiah 45:1-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso (On Leave), *Director of
Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 23

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Now We Join in Celebration*

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at fice@oslcissaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Ron Gerde healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

Carol Johnson ongoing medical issues, and mourning the recent loss of her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

JD Golick diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

Marlene Pickering discernment in medical decisions to alleviate pain. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Cumming peace as she awaits an opportunity to move into Timber Ridge. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Anderson comfort and healing. (Cheryl Neeb)

Carmen Saavedra hope with new medication. (Cheryl Neeb)

Washington, Oregon and California Wildfires fire-fighters and those affected. (Marilyn Carlson)

Doyle Watson his caregiver and their families, all positive for COVID 19. (Marilyn Carlson)

Scott safety, health and help. (Karen Hansen)

Gwynn and Don peace. (Karen Hansen)

Jeremy healing broken legs after a motorcycle accident. (brother to Diane Murff)

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty

Christopherson (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist**;

Mike Golick (Patty Gerde); **Marian James**; **Greg-**

ory (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**;

Katie Moeller; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of

Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut**

(Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of

Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas**; **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Talton Johnson** (husband of Carol Johnson); **Jean Stanley** (sister-in-law to Alice Lewis); **Delores "Dee" Bakamus** (Dar Boni); **Marlene Braun** (sister to Cheryl Neeb); **Nikki** (niece to Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Richard "Dick" Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: **Mike** special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.

