

APRIL 6, 2022 AT 6:30 PM

MIDWEEK OF LENT 5

VESPERS

NUPTIAL FEAST

The biblical writers frequently use marital terms to speak of God's relationship with His people and the salvation that He has prepared for His Bride. For example, "For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you" (Isaiah 62:5). This imagery is carried over into the New Testament, as Christ identifies Himself as the Bridegroom of the Church (Matthew 9:15; 25:1). No wedding would be complete without a wedding feast, and it is no different with the marriage of Christ and the Church. As the Bride of Christ feasts on the salutary gift of the Lord's Supper, she enjoys a foretaste of that eternal wedding feast to come. Drawing on this theme, the hymn "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" (*LSB* 636) urges the faithful to "Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'rence greet Him" (st. 2) as she anticipates His coming in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. Those who "receive this sacrament worthily" are those who have the wedding garment of faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

Stand

L O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

L Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C 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.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

+ PSALMODY +

PSALM *Psalms 45:6–9; antiphon Isaiah 61:10 (Spoken)*

^{61:10} I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult | in my
God,

**For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,**

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself | with her jewels.

^{45:6} Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness;

⁷ **You have loved righteousness and hated | wickedness.**

Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness beyond Your companions;

⁸ **Your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.**

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make You glad;

⁹ **daughters of kings are among Your ladies of honor;
at Your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

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.**

^{61:10} I will greatly rejoice in the LORD; my soul shall exult in my God,

for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

Sit

+ READINGS +

OLD TESTAMENT *Isaiah 61:10–62:5*

^{61:10} I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my soul shall exult in my God,

for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

He has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its sprouts,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to sprout up before all the nations.

^{62:1} For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,
and her salvation as a burning torch.

²The nations shall see your righteousness,
 and all the kings your glory,
 and you shall be called by a new name
 that the mouth of the LORD will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
 and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
 and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
 but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
 and your land Married;
 for the LORD delights in you,
 and your land shall be married.
⁵For as a young man marries a young woman,
 so shall your sons marry you,
 and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
 so shall your God rejoice over you.

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Revelation 21:1-4*

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 22:1-14*

¹And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ²"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast."' ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.

⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.’ ¹⁰And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

L O Lord, have mercy on us.

C Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORY

LENT *LSB*, p. 231

L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

L In You, O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

L Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

HYMN “Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness” (*LSB* 636)

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
Come into the daylight’s splendor,
There with joy your praises render.
Bless the One whose grace unbounded
This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav’nly, high, and holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

- 2 Hasten as a bride to meet Him,
And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal
He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him,
Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You,
That I nevermore will leave You.
- 3 He who craves a precious treasure
Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven
God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered,
None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven,
And His blood, for you once given.
- 4 Now in faith I humbly ponder
Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless
Though the souls it feeds are countless:
With the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
Pledge and seal of my salvation!
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You,
Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited,
Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure,
Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me
As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

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SERMON "Nuptial Feast"

+ CANTICLE +

Stand

ANTIPHON

- L** Let my prayer rise before You as incense,
C and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

MAGNIFICAT

- C** My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior;
- P** for He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden.
- C** For behold, from this day all generations will call me blessed.
- P** For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name;
- C** and His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation.
- P** He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- C** He has cast down the mighty from their thrones and has exalted the lowly.
- P** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.
- C** He has helped His servant Israel in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever.
- C** **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.**

Sit

OFFERING

+ PRAYER +

Stand

KYRIE

- C** Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

COLLECTS

- L** O Lord, hear my prayer.
- C** And let my cry come to You.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** Dear Jesus, You have made us Your beloved Bride by clothing us in Holy Baptism with the wedding garment of salvation and righteousness. Grant us, Your beloved Bride, loving reverence to greet You in the salutary gift of the Lord's Supper so that we may receive a foretaste of the eternal wedding feast to come; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ADDITIONAL COLLECTS OF INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING

COLLECT

L Almighty God, as You took Eve from the side of sleeping Adam, so You bring forth and nourish the Church from the water and blood that poured out of Jesus' side in the sleep of His crucifixion. Having been made the Bride of Christ in Holy Baptism, nourish us with the body and blood of our Bridegroom and bring us to the marriage feast that will have no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

L O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (410)

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

L Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

The Fruit of Love Once Blooming

To the tune of EWING, LSB 672, 5 Stanzas.

The fruit of love once blooming
Upon a dying tree
Beneath the storm clouds looming
Will thrive eternally.
Here at the Table offered,
My heart is satisfied
With food You now have proffered
Since You were crucified.

**Your blood and body given:
A salutary gift.
Your pierc-ed side once riven
To heal the sin-made rift
Now flows here at the altar
Within the blessed wine.
Your flesh, which did not falter
Is in this Meal divine.**

**O Bread of Life bestowing
All blessing for each day,
Grant all we need, foreknowing
What tasks will come our way.
Our strength and health sustaining
To do Your gracious will,
Our lives You are maintaining
As You provide our fill.**

**We come, our weakness baring,
Deserving Your reproach.
You come, our crosses bearing,
Inviting our approach.
You bring us balm for healing
And rest for weary eyes.
You bend to bodies kneeling
That we with strength may rise.**

**We marvel at the table,
The overflowing feast
That You alone are able
To serve as Host and Priest.
The guests, from ev'ry nation,
Receive a purchased place
And join the celebration
In robes made white with grace.**

Written by Lisa M. Clark, 2/18/2016

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Acknowledgments

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