



"The Kingdom  
of Heaven may  
be compared to  
a king who gave  
a wedding  
banquet for  
his son."

Matthew 22:2, NRSV

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## **St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – Oct. 11, 2020**

120 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8am-12pm, 1-5pm

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Listen live on WYNT 95.9 FM or on demand at [www.stpaulupper.org](http://www.stpaulupper.org)

*\*\*\*Please note that there will be no congregational singing. The congregation WILL respond to the Confession and Forgiveness, recite the Apostles' Creed, and respond to the prayers. Please follow all directions of the ushers and keep your masks on at all times while in the building. If you would like to bring your hymnal from home, we encourage you to do so. Please take everything with you from your pew and dispose of it at home.*

## **+ GATHERING +**

PRELUDE

*"Have Thine Own Way, Lord" Stebbens*

SPECIAL MUSIC BY LYDIA SCHNEIDER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation. **Amen**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**Faithful God, have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

GREETING

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

**And also with you.**

KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE

p. 147-150

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SPECIAL MUSIC BY LAUREN BAKER & EMILY RUHLEN

**+ WORD +**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

p. 151

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glorify to you, O Lord.**

...This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Barry Halter, Jr.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "*Now We Join in Celebration*" Hymn 462

BLESSING OF LWR KITS & QUILTS

THE APOSTLES' CREED

p. 105

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Following each petition: ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

SHARING OF THE PEACE WITH NO CONTACT

## + MEAL +

OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING MUSIC     *"O God, Thou Faithful God"* *Bach*

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (spoken) p. 152

PREFACE

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY p. 153

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER p. 154

"LAMB OF GOD..." p. 154

TAKING OF COMMUNION

|                                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COMMUNION SONG: <i>"May the God of All Grace"</i> 2x     Hymn 217 |
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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## + SENDING +

SENDING/BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

|                                                                                                          |
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| SENDING SONG: <i>"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"</i><br><span style="float: right;">Hymn 536</span> |
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DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

*"Largo"* *Stanley*



**Tuesday, October 13 –**

9am – Staff meeting (Beth devotions)

7:30pm – Council meeting

**Wednesday, October 14 –**

6pm – Finance Team meeting

6:30pm – Bell practice

7:30pm – Solo Bell practice

**Thursday, October 15 –**

9:30am – Ruth/Naomi Circle @ We Luv Yogurt

6pm – Books 'n Barry

**Friday, October 16 –**

6:15am – PB&J @ Beca House

**Sunday, October 18 –**

9am – Adult Sunday School in The Gathering Place

10am – Worship

PRAYER CONCERNS: Paul Baum, Joyce Koehler, Jim Pfeifer, Mary Orwick, Tim & Karen Koehler, John Foster, Pastor John Kerr, Wyandot Cares

COUNCIL is reminded of their meeting Tuesday night at 7:30 in The Family Space.

FINANCE TEAM is reminded of their meeting on Wednesday at 6pm in Beth's office.

RUTH/NAOMI CIRCLE will meet **THURSDAY** at 9:30am at We Luv Yogurt. Please take note of the change of the day of the week!

BOOKS & BARRY continues this Thursday at 6pm in The Gathering Place. The book we will be studying is Rob Bell's *Love Wins*. All are welcome!

HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE AGE KIDS: how about some PB&J??? No, it's not peanut butter & jelly! It's Pastor Barry & Jesus!!! He would like to meet with you on Friday mornings at 6:15 at Beca House to get your day started off the right way! Show up this Friday and bring your friends!!!

THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is meeting each Sunday in The Gathering Place at 9am. Everyone is invited to join them!

THE MISSION OUTREACH line on your offering envelope for October will go to help buy gifts for the families we will be adopting this Christmas.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING with our Radio Ministry??? Bob is in need of (hopefully) several people to help out with the sound board on Sunday mornings and to eventually take over for him. No prior knowledge is needed, just a willingness to learn! Let Pastor, Bob or Beth know if you are willing or if you have any questions!

CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER: We are collecting canned meats during October. Please put your donations on the table in the vestibule.

## Justice for All

As we try to make sense of today's unsettling parable, it helps to recall that it was told during the last week of Jesus' life, as the events leading to the crucifixion were already unfolding. The Jews gathered in Jerusalem were celebrating Passover, recalling how God had led them from slavery into freedom—and yet they were living under the oppressive thumb of the Roman occupation.

The wedding banquet of the parable, like the festival of Passover, takes place against a backdrop of exclusion, injustice, and escalating violence. The king of the parable who sends troops out to wage war on those who have spurned his invitation reminds one less of God, who leads us beside still waters, than of Lin-Manuel Miranda's King George III of *Hamilton*, who says, "I will kill your friends and family to remind you of my love."

And yet, to a people who are oppressed and calling on God to hold the powerful to account, it is indeed good news that God will not be silent and passive forever. It matters to God how we treat one another.

In the liturgy of Holy Baptism, we are asked three times to renounce sin and the devil and all the forces that defy God, rebel against God, and draw us away from God. This renunciation can feel awkward to a people steeped in grace, yet it is critical to recognize and name the fact that there are forces in this world that would pull us into complicity with systems that deny life and liberty to our neighbors.

The God of Matthew's parable is the same God of Psalm 23, the one who walks with us through the valley of the shadow of death. Jesus reminds us how passionately God resists the powers that deal in fear and death. Instead of claiming that God is on our side, we are invited to join God's side through our own dedication to justice for all of God's people.