

Pentecost 20

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 23 (Year A)

"You prepare a table before me," the psalmist sang so long ago. God, our Good Shepherd, still goes before us to prepare the way. We need not fear that we are alone; instead, we can be confident that because of God's love for us, we are invited to the great wedding banquet of Christ. The One who rescues us from the power of death calls us to come and eat with him. Will we accept the invitation or turn away?



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9**A Feast of Rich Food**

The Lord provided a feast for his people on his holy mountain, rescuing them from their enemies and providing comfort for those who grieved. He covered their shame and put an end to death for all time. We can rejoice in his salvation!

Psalm 23**The Lord is My Shepherd**

The Lord shepherds his people into green pastures of safety, solace, and comfort. The restorative character of God is proclaimed by the psalmist, who confessed that God provided for all human need, from material and physical to emotional and spiritual. His promises encompass all of human life.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-13**Rejoice Always**

In Paul's final words to the believers in Philippi, he encouraged them to be joyful in the Lord no matter what they may be experiencing. He left them with an exhortation to pray rather than to worry, and to think only of the things that are true, honorable, and worthy of praise.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14**Come to the Banquet**

Jesus taught about a king who invited many guests to a banquet in honor of his son, but all who were called to come made excuses for why they could not attend. In response to this rejection, the king invited both good and bad people to attend instead. The wedding hall was filled to capacity, including one man who did not have the proper attire. The king was insulted by his lack of respect for the feast.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

With children, consider singing "The Wedding Banquet Song" by Medical Mission Sisters. It tells the parable of the same name in a very sweet and lively way.

Reformation Skit #3 can be found on the Pentecost Seasonal page.

Encourage worshipers to make a list of their worries and to give all of those over to God today. Pray for the congregation to focus on the love of Christ and his care for us, rather than on the troubles of the day.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing	210	---	633	362	150	150
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
Now We Join in Celebration	203	---	---	462	---	---
O Christ the Same	---	778	---	760	---	---
O Master, Let Me Walk	492	---	---	818	229	229
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	---	731	739	773	206	206
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
On Our Way Rejoicing	260	---	---	537	---	web
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord	226	---	637	---	---	---

*The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."*

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Here I Am to Worship
(CCLI# 3266032)
Rejoice in the Lord Always
(CCLI# 15692)
The Lord is My Shepherd
(CCLI# 5912360)
The Master's Table
(CCLI# 4829155)
I Will Follow
(CCLI# 5806878)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.