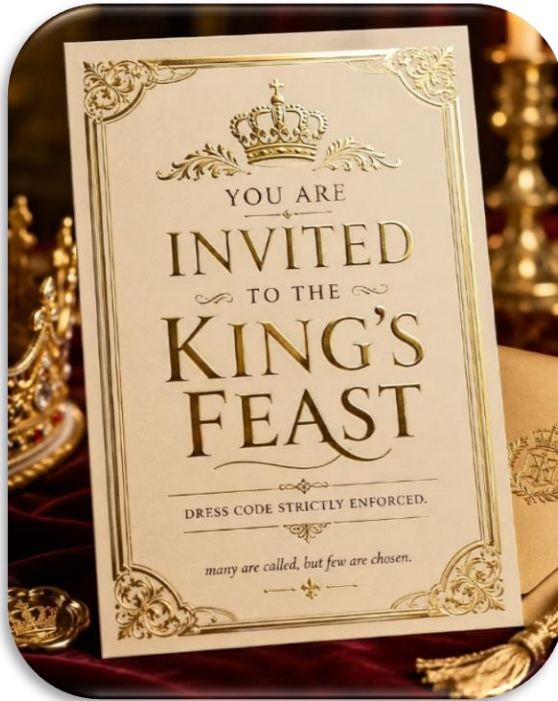


st. John's

Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 10/11, 2026

As We Gather

What is more difficult to believe: a fable about a man defeating a deadly dragon by eating it or a prophet's prediction that the Creator God would defeat death itself by swallowing it? What does Isaiah, the prophet, mean by saying God "will swallow up death forever" (Isaiah 25:8)? Does God eat?

The mighty, eternal, creator God is life Himself and has no need for sustenance. In order to "swallow death," God took on our human form. We die because of the corruption of sin. To "swallow death," the incarnate Savior "ate," or consumed, death by taking the sin of the world onto Himself on the cross of Calvary. Jesus did not die for Himself. Jesus died your death for your sin. So it is that when a sinner is baptized into Christ Jesus, he or she is "baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3). Thereby, "you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3).

Even with saving faith in Christ, we still have Christian funerals. But by faith we wait, hope, and fully expect to be raised in the resurrection to eternal life, to be present at the great feast of salvation. In Christ, the enemy, death itself, has been transformed for us by God now to be but His divine remedy, freeing us from sin and eternal death. Therefore, by faith in Christ we no longer need to fear death but rather can see it as a peaceful sleep from which we are promised to be awakened to eternal life and the wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom.

8:00 & 10:30- Bell Choir "Come Into God's Courts With Praise" by M Helman

Chimes and Prelude

Please Stand

Opening Hymn "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" LSB 803 (sts 1-3)



- 1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
2 All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect Thy rays,
△ 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Prais - ing Thee, their sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, Flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it, Foun - tain - head of love di - vine:



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain Call us to re - joice in Thee.
Joy - ful, we Thy heav'n in - her - it! Joy - ful, we by grace are Thine!

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1852–1933, alt. Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827; adapt. Edward Hodges, 1796–1867
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P I will go to the altar of God,

C **to God my exceeding joy.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.

C **This is the Lord; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.**

Confession and Absolution

P The Lord God, the King of the universe, has invited all, both bad and good, to the wedding feast of salvation. Let us not reject that invitation but fill His house as guests of repentance and faith.

Hymn**"Just as I Am, Without One Plea"****LSB 570 (st 1)**

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

P Baptized into the name of the most Holy Trinity, you are buried with Christ and your sin is taken away. By His Spirit now living within you, He calls you His child. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins. By faith, God restores your hope to enter the gate of His presence both now in the Divine Service and at the final gate of the great heavenly feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end.

C **Amen.**

Please be Seated

Old Testament Reading***Isaiah 25:6-9***

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷ And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸ He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day,
"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the Lord; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Philippians 4:4-13

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

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

⁹ What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content. ¹² I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³ I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God**

8:00 & 10:30am- Bell Choir

“How Firm a Foundation”

arr. S. Eithun

- [P]** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.
[C] **Glory to You, O Lord**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

22 And 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, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴ Again 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."' ⁵ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' ¹⁰ And 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. ¹² And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. ¹³ Then 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.' ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen."

- [P]** This is the Gospel of the Lord
[C] **Praise to You, O Christ**

The Apostles Creed

- [C]** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
 The third day He rose again from the dead.
 He ascended into heaven
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life ✠ everlasting. Amen.**

Please Be Seated

Sermon Hymn

"Be Still, My Soul"

LSB 752 (sts 1-2)



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa-tient-
 2 Be still, my soul; your God will un-der-take To guide the
 ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or-der
 fu-ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con-fi-dence let
 and pro-vide; In ev-'ry change He faith-ful will re-
 noth-ing shake; All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at
 main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n-ly Friend
 last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.

Text: Catharina Amalia Dorothea von Schlegel, 1697–1752; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–97, alt.

Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt. Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

“R.S.V.P. ~ répondez s’il vous plaît”

(Matthew 22:1-14)

- I. **Accept the Free Invitation of Grace**
- II. **Share the Gospel with Everyone**
- III. **Put on Christ’s Righteousness**
- IV. **Live a Transformed Life**

Responsive Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”

LSB 752 (st4)



4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall



be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Offering (Please place in the Box located in the Narthex)

Kid's Church



Prayer of the Church

P Almighty and eternal God, worthy to be held in reverence by all people everywhere, we give You thanks for the innumerable blessings that You have bestowed on us, especially for the gift of true repentance of our sins and faith in Your gracious gift of forgiveness and the hope of everlasting life. For Your saving Word and Holy Sacraments, we give You praise. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Bestow Your grace upon all nations of the earth. Bless especially our country, its inhabitants, and all who are in authority, in order that mercy and truth, righteousness and peace may abound everywhere. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Defend us, Lord, from all calamity of fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine, and from every other evil. Be the God and Father of the lonely and the forsaken, the helper of the sick and needy, the comforter of the distressed and of those who sorrow. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all who are sick or hospitalized and for any who are in trouble, doubt, or fear of death. **[We especially pray]** Grant Your healing gifts and merciful presence to save and deliver all who look to You for help in every need. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,**
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

LSB 922 (sts1-4)



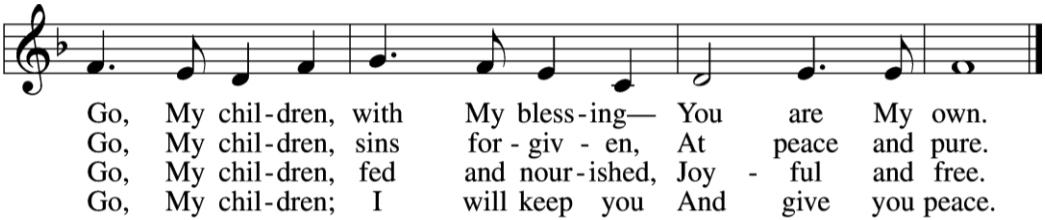
1 Go, My chil-dren, with My bless - ing, Nev - er a - lone.
 2 Go, My chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, At peace and pure.
 3 Go, My chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, Clos - er to Me;
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; You are My own. In My
 Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure. Here you
 Grow in love and love by serv-ing, Joy - ful and free. Here My
 I the Lord will smile up - on you And give you peace: I the



love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you Mine for - ev - er.
 heard My dear Son's sto - ry; Here you touched Him, saw His glo - ry.
 Spir - it's pow - er filled you; Here His ten - der com - fort stilled you.
 Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and Broth - er.



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Tune: Welsh, 18th cent. Text: © 1983 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001315 Tune: Public domain

Benediction

- [P]** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

[C] Amen

Silent Prayer: King Yahweh, when it comes to my salvation, all is of You: the idea, the food, the preparations, the invitations and even the garments. Clothed in the mercy of Christ, yes, I respond with joy. Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

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SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK –October 10/11

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Tom Bannon	Jon Werkheiser	Kevin Keltner
GREETERS	Kevin/ Becky Huttenlocher	Kory/ Lindsey Gerbick	Ryan/ Nikki Keltner
USHERS	Larry Maaske	Bob Werhane	Tim Hamilton
ACOLYTES	Usher	Ella Korte	Gavyn Gerke
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Kory Gerbick/ Denny Potter	Anita Mau/ Michelle Rothschadl
ALTAR GUILD	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK – October 17/18

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox/ Mark Mau	Craig Kroeger/ Mike Rothschadl/ Kory Gerbick	Rob Cobine/ Tim Hamilton/ Jon Werkheiser
GREETERS	Neal/ Kris Wagner	Tom/ Carol Mau	Ryan/ Sue Amendt
USHERS	Brian Baumgartner	Eric Bader	Brandon Falk
ACOLYTES	Usher	Everly Keeffer/ Liesl Jones	Charlie Kent/ Adalyn Solverson
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Lee Ann Brinkmeier/ Jaren Jones	Korbin Winter/ Sam Cobine
ALTAR GUILD	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles	Ardi Ireton/ Joan Liles