

## **Announcements**

- Special welcome to Kalias James -- and his family -- as we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Baptism and officially welcome him as a member of the body of Christ
- We will begin gathering indoors this month. Starting this week, we will have worship on **Sunday @ 9:00 -and- Wednesday @ 11:00.**
  - Because we are limited to 50 people, you will need to RSVP by contacting the church office.
  - Unless you require the use of the elevator, please enter through the front of the sanctuary. This will allow us to limit traffic throughout the church.
  - Pews will be marked to help with seating. Masks are still required, as is distancing. You will also be ushered out in order to maintain proper distance.
  - Thank you for your flexibility and understanding.
- Wednesday education programming will begin on **Wednesday, October 21st.**
  - Wednesday Ed: 5:30 - 6:15 in the education wing
  - Confirmation: 6:00 - 7:30 in the sanctuary
- We will continue to gather for Communion on Tuesdays at 10:00, 5:00, and 7:00. We will meet in the sanctuary. Please enter through the front doors and maintain proper distance. RSVP to Pastor Ally if you'd like to celebrate Communion this week!
- There will be a countywide food distribution on October 28th at the Le Sueur County Fairgrounds from 4:00 - 5:30.

## **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 judgement 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.**

**Gathering Hymn** | *Oh, How Good it Is* (recorded)

**[Sacrament of Holy Baptism]**

**Baptismal Song** | *Jesus Loves Me* (new recording)

**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.**

**Prayer of the Day**

Lord of the feast, **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.**

**[Online Children's Message]**

**First Reading** | *Isaiah 25:1-9*

*After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death -- which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone -- will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.*

O 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. For 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. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For 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, the 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.

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

**\*Gospel Acclamation** (pg. 205)

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

**\*Gospel Reading | Matthew 22:1-14**

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

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

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

## **Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day** | *Now We Join in Celebration*  
recording)

ELW 462 (new

## **[Online: Apostles’ Creed]**

Let us confess our faith using the words of the 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 Intercession**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Gracious host, fill your church with a spirit of joyous hospitality. We pray for bishops, teachers, church leaders, and all children of God as they invite others to your table of boundless grace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as creation waits with eager longing for redemption, protect your creatures that are mistreated. Restore valleys, mountains and pastures, and still and running waters. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are early or ill, especially Roger Boettcher, Tanya Bohmer, Dave Farm, Dave Krenik, Dave Weber, Donna Sladek, Erin Buss, Jane Lorsung, Nancy Gjerde, Ron Germsheid, Sara Lobatos, Teri Knish, and all those we lift to you in the quiet of our hearts. Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who seek to their needs. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, you call us into this community, in which we, though many, are one in Christ. We give you thanks this day for our newest member in Christ,

Kalias James. May he, and we, recognize in ourselves and in one another the unique gifts you have given us for the building up of the church for the sake of the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious host, as we remember those who have died and are gathered at the heavenly banquet, comfort us with your presence. Assure us of your peace at all times. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray: **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.**

**\*Final Blessing**

Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

**\*Dismissal**

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

**Sending Hymn** | *The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

ELW 551 (new)

**\*\* Dismissal + Sending Hymn reversed for online worship \*\***