



“Jesus spoke to them again in **parables**, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is **like** a KING who prepared a wedding banquet for his SON. “**For many are invited, but few are chosen.**” (Matthew 22:1-2; 14 - NIV)

Prayer: O most merciful Lord, grant me continued pardon and peace knowing that all my sins have been washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ. Help me to always serve You with the confidence that You will never leave me nor forsake me; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. AMEN.



Order of Worship – The Common Service With L.S. – pg. 15

- Greeting by the Pastor

- Invocation (Liturgy pg. 15)

Opening Hymn **C.W. 230** / TLH 3 sung by the Congregation

- Confession of Sins

- Absolution

- Prayer and Praise (pg. 16)

- Prayer of The Day (pg. 17)

First Lesson – Isaiah 25:6-9 – A Heavenly Feast.

PSALM OF THE DAY Psalm 23 (C.W. pg. 72 – Sung by The Cantor)

Second Lesson – Philippians 4:4-13 – Rejoice in The Lord

Gospel Lesson – Matthew 22:1-14 – The Banquet of Salvation

Nicene Creed by the Congregation: (Liturgy pg. 18)

Sermon Hymn: **C.W. 565** / TLH 509 sung by the Congregation

Sermon Text: Matthew 22:1-2; 14

Sermon Theme: FREE Food at The Banquet of Salvation.

"Create in Me" – (pg. 20)

Offering (The plates will not be passed but are at the entrance doors)

Offering Prayer

Prayer of The Church

Lord’s Prayer

Communion Liturgy (Liturgy - pg. 21)

Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy – Liturgy pg. 22)

Words of Institution (Liturgy pg. 23)

Agnus Dei (O Christ Lamb of God – Lit. pg. 23)

RECEPTION of Christ’s Body & Blood which are Really Present, In / With and Under the Bread and the Wine for the forgiveness of sins.

Communion Hymn **C.W. 310 Vss. 1 & 15** / TLH 315 sung by the Congregation after everyone has communed including the Pastor

Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon - Liturgy pg. 24)

Collect / Prayer (pg. 24)

Benediction

Closing Hymn **C.W. 360** / TLH 436 sung by the Congregation.

SERMON TEXT: Matthew 22:1-14 (See also Luke 14:15-24)

Vs. 1 - Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying:

Vs. 2 - “The kingdom of heaven is like a KING who prepared a wedding banquet for his SON.

Vs. 3 - He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

Vs. 4 - “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

Vs. 5 - “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business.

Vs. 6 - The rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

Vs. 7 - The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

Vs. 8 - “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come.

Vs. 9 - Go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’

Vs. 10 - So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

Vs. 11 - “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes.

Vs. 12 - ‘Friend,’ he asked, ‘how did you get in here without wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless.

Vs. 13 - “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Vs. 14 - “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

GREETING: How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are.

It has happened more than once that when someone is approaching their last days on this earth, that the individual will call their loved ones to themselves and the family will gather around, and the person on their death bed will deliver their last words of wisdom, encouragement, warning, and advice to their loved ones.

In this section we see Jesus, as it is Tuesday of Holy Week, and Jesus is giving admonition, warning, and encouragement to the Jews, to His disciples, to us and to all who read these words of our Lord Jesus as He approaches His suffering and death on the Cross of Calvary.

Jesus has been challenged and harassed and criticized by the Chief Priest, the Pharisees and Sadducees, Teachers of the Law, and the Herodians.

In a loving attempt to call them to repentance Jesus tells this Parable of The Wedding Banquet.

A Parable being that “Earthly story with a Heavenly meaning.”

Jesus speaks of The King Who prepared a Wedding Banquet. The King is God the Father. He prepares a Wedding Banquet for His Son – Jesus.

The Wedding Banquet is God's Kingdom with its finality in Heaven.

God sends out His servants – Those who proclaim the Word of God – to gather those who have been invited to the Wedding Banquet.

Those who were first invited to the Banquet of Salvation were the Jewish people. Unfortunately, they refused to come.

So, the King sends out His servants once again to tell them that EVERYTHING IS READY!

The fattened calf and oxen have been slaughtered.

God had promised to send a Savior from Sin already in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve.

This Promise of God to send the Savior was renewed again and again through the prophets of God and now Jesus, Who is the fulfillment of all those O.T. Prophecies. Jesus is right there in Jerusalem, during Holy Week, He is but a few days away from going to the cross for the sin of the World.

Salvation from sin and Life forever in heaven is standing right there before their very eyes. The Wedding Banquet is READY!

Not only do these people refuse to come to the Banquet which God has provided, but they have other things which are more important. One to his FIELD, another to his BUSINESS. They have to go to WORK!

According to Jewish customs, a Wedding Celebration could last as long as seven days.

The Host is going to feed the guest for seven days and they are too busy.

Who would refuse seven days of FREE FOOD!

Imagine a store that is giving away FREE 96 inch wide screen TV's to the first 500 people who came into the store on Black Friday. What time would people begin to line up to get their FREE TV?

Yet these people who are invited to seven days (Judges 14:17) of FREE FOOD, cannot come because of work.

And so the King sends out His Servants again, only this time we are told that those servants are mistreated and even killed!

This was the final straw. The King sends His army and burned their city and destroyed those murderers.

The King now sends out His Servants once again (Different servants since the previous were murdered) to gather people from off the street.

The servants of the King gather the "good and the bad"

We are by nature all bad. Sinful from the time our mother's conceived us. (Ps. 51:5) By nature we are dead in our trespasses and sins. (Eph. 2:1-10) Our Sinful Nature is only evil, all the time. (Genesis 6:5) Our sinful nature is hostile to God. (Romans 8:6-8)

Those who are "GOOD" are those who look good to the human eye, while those who are BAD, are those who look bad to the human eye.

Nonetheless, the servants gather in such a large crowd that the Banquet Hall is filled! YIPPEE!!!

The King then goes into the Banquet Hall to greet His guests, but as He goes through the hall, He sees that there is a man who does not have on Banquet Clothes.

This man had refused the FREE Banquet clothes which the King offered to His guests.

Another custom among Jewish Wedding Celebrations besides lasting for seven days, was that The Host would also supply the guests with a Wedding Garment. This Wedding Garment was FREE.

This particular guest had refused the Wedding Garment and he was going to make it into the Wedding Celebration on his own.

Instead, this man was bound hand and foot and thrown out into the darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

This man rejected the hospitality of the King and so he is thrown into hell.

Those who think that they can make it into heaven on their own righteousness do not have heaven, instead they will spend eternity in hell.

This man is a picture of those who reject the free garment of Salvation which Christ Jesus has won for them.

The Garment of Salvation is that which the Lord Jesus has provided for us. This Wedding Garment is provided by Jesus as Paul clarifies for us in **GALATIANS 3:26-29** – “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have CLOTHED / [PUT ON CHRIST] yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.” We are Heirs of Heaven because of Jesus.

Heaven is God’s Free Gift in Christ Jesus.

ENJOY THE FEAST! AMEN

THEME: FREE Food at The Banquet of Salvation.