



The Word @ Home

Pentecost 20

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

The Point

God invites all people into God's kingdom.

Key Verse

"Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet."
– Matthew 22:9

Scripture Summaries

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Today's parable tells the story of a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. The king has prepared a grand feast and sent invitations to his guests, but the guests still refuse to come. The king deems these guests as unworthy. Instead, he asks his servants to "go into the main streets and invite everyone you find" (verse 9). The servants gather all the people that they can find—and the text specifies that they welcome *both good and bad*, until the banquet hall is full.

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

Isaiah praises God for God's steadfastness and strength. Again, we see the imagery of a banquet, bountiful with food, comfort, and celebration.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

As Paul closes his Letter to the Philippians, he imparts final wisdom, calling on them to work together in gentleness and with rejoicing. They are to base all of their decisions in prayer. Finally, they are to set their minds toward things that are positive and praiseworthy.

Seasons & Festivals

Today is the 20th Sunday after Pentecost. Green is used to indicate our growth in faith, and this season after Pentecost is a time in which we focus on Jesus' teachings and ministry. We hear Jesus teaching in a parable, challenging our preconceived notions by giving both a welcoming and a warning to all for a wedding feast.

Discussion Starters

- Who are the people that you would invite to a great banquet?
- When you think of God's kingdom as a celebration and a party, what do you picture? Who will be there? What will you be doing? What will it look like?
- Use social media (or write an invitation, if you are not on social media) to share something positive about your congregation with someone. (You might choose to share the posts created in The Word in the World.)

Prayer of the Week

God, help us to welcome and invite all people to know you. Amen.

Daily Bible Readings

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday

Read Matthew 22:1-14 God's kingdom is compared to a wedding feast.
Prepare a special meal as a family or with a group of friends, and talk about the things you enjoy about your faith.

Monday

Read Psalm 97 God is praised in a psalm.
Work together to write a poem, song, or psalm praising God.

Tuesday

Read Philippians 3:13–4:1 Paul sets an example for Christians to follow.
Play Follow the Leader.

Wednesday

Read John 6:25-35 Jesus is the bread of life.
Eat bread while you listen to this reading. Talk about ways that Jesus is like bread.

Thursday

Read Exodus 33:7-11 Meeting God in the tent.
Create a tent or blanket fort. Gather in the fort for this reading.

Friday

Read 1 Peter 5:1-5 The elders must guide the flock.
Talk about someone who has been an example in the faith to you. What was it about them that you wanted to follow or be like?

Saturday

Read Matthew 14:1-12 John the Baptist is beheaded.
What a horrible ending for John's story! Faithful people sometimes suffer for their beliefs. How can you be strong if someone challenges you about your faith?



Blessing for the Week

Share this blessing while tracing a cross on each person's forehead or hand with their permission:
You are celebrated in God's kingdom.