# Bethlehem Lutheran Church Wagga Wagga

# 19th Sunday after Pentecost

# 11th October, 2020

# The Triune God meets with us

## This is the Lord for whom we have waited.

## Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation! (Isa 25:9b NRSV)

## In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

### Amen

# We meditate on the hymn ‘Wake, awake, for night is flying’

### 1. Wake, awake, for night is flying,

### the watchmen on the heights are crying,

### 'Awake, Jerusalem, arise!'

### Midnight hears the welcome voices,

### and at the rousing cry rejoices:

### 'Where are you, all you virgins wise?

### The bridegroom comes, awake!

### Your lighted lamps then take.

### Hallelujah!

### With joy prepare

### to meet him there;

### the royal wedding feast is near.'

### 2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,

### and in her heart new joy is springing;

### she wakes, she rises from her gloom.

### For her Lord comes down all-glorious,

### and strong in grace, in truth victorious;

### her star has risen, her light has come.

### Now come, O precious crown,

### Lord Jesus, God's own Son.

### Hail, hosanna!

### O lead us all

### into the hall

### where you provide your joyful meal.

### 3. Now let all the heavens adore you,

### and saints and angels sing before you,

### with harp and cymbal's joyful tone.

### Gates of pearl in heaven are shining;

### there, with the angel-choir combining,

### we gather round your radiant throne.

### No eye has seen that sight,

### no ear heard such delight.

### What rejoicing!

### Yet there will we

### eternally

### with songs acclaim your majesty.

#### Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme

#### Philipp Nicolai 1556-1608

#### tr Catherine Winkworth 1827-78 (1858), alt

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# We confess our sins to God the Father…

## Friends in Christ:

## God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Jn 3:17

## Therefore, let’s confess our sins to God our Father, and ask him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

### We confess that we are born in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have failed to do.

### We have not loved you with our whole heart, and we have not loved our neighbour as ourselves.

### We deserve your eternal punishment.

### For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us.

### Amen.

## I ask each of you in the presence of God who searches the heart: Do you confess that you have sinned, and do you repent of your sins?

### I do.

## Do you believe that Jesus Christ has redeemed you from all your sins, and do you desire forgiveness in his name?

### I do.

## Do you intend with the help of the Holy Spirit to live as in God's presence, and to strive daily to lead a holy life, even as Christ has made you holy?

### I do.

# …and God forgives us

## I have good news for you!

## St Paul tells us: ‘God shows his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.’ Rom 5:8

## As a called and ordained servant of the word, I announce the grace of God to all of you. On behalf of my Lord Jesus Christ, and by his command, I forgive the sins of all of you who repent and believe, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

## Peace be with you.

### Amen.

# Jesus leads us as we pray

## The Lord be with you

### And also with you.

## Let us pray that we rejoice in the Lord. [silence]

## God of joy, keep us from being weighed down by worry. Encourage us instead to lay our burdens on you.

### Make us cheerful and glad because your Son Jesus is always with us. For he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Amen.

# 1st Reading – God speaks through his prophets

## **Isaiah 25:1-9** *God swallows up death in the feast of victory*

## 1 Lord, you are my God;

## I will exalt you and praise your name,

## for in perfect faithfulness

## you have done wonderful things,

## things planned long ago.

## 2 You have made the city a heap of rubble,

## the fortified town a ruin,

## the foreigners’ stronghold a city no more;

## it will never be rebuilt.

## 3 Therefore strong peoples will honor you;

## cities of ruthless nations will revere you.

## 4 You have been a refuge for the poor,

## a refuge for the needy in their distress,

## a shelter from the storm

## and a shade from the heat.

## For the breath of the ruthless

## is like a storm driving against a wall

## 5 and like the heat of the desert.

## You silence the uproar of foreigners;

## as heat is reduced by the shadow of a cloud,

## so the song of the ruthless is stilled.

## 6 On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare

## a feast of rich food for all peoples,

## a banquet of aged wine—

## the best of meats and the finest of wines.

## 7 On this mountain he will destroy

## the shroud that enfolds all peoples,

## the sheet that covers all nations;

## 8 he will swallow up death forever.

## The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears

## from all faces;

## he will remove his people’s disgrace

## from all the earth.

## The Lord has spoken.

## 9 In that day they will say,

## “Surely this is our God;

## we trusted in him, and he saved us.

## This is the Lord, we trusted in him;

## let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.”

## This is the word of the Lord

### Thanks be to God

# We respond with Psalm 23

## 1 The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

## 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,

## he leads me beside quiet waters,

## 3 he refreshes my soul.

## He guides me along the right paths

## for his name’s sake.

## 4 Even though I walk

## through the darkest valley,

## I will fear no evil,

## for you are with me;

## your rod and your staff,

## they comfort me.

# 

### I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever (Ps 23:6b NKJV)

## 5 You prepare a table before me

## in the presence of my enemies.

## You anoint my head with oil;

## my cup overflows.

## 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me

## all the days of my life,

## and I will dwell in the house of the Lord

## forever.

### I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever

# 2nd Reading – God speaks through his apostles

## **Philippians 4:1-9** *Rejoice in the Lord always*

## 1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

## 2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

## 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

## 8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

## This is the word of the Lord

### Thanks be to God

# Gospel Reading – God speaks through Jesus

## **Matthew 22:1-14** *The parable of the wedding feast*

## 1 Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. 3 He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

## 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.’

## 5 “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. 6 The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

## 8 “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. 9 So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ 10 So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

## 11 “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. 12 He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

## 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.’

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

## This is the gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for inviting us to your wedding feast.

## Make us acceptable and grateful guests.

### Amen.

# We confess our faith in the Triune God

### We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

### We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us\* and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human.

### For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

### We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic† and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

### Amen.

#### \* This means: us human beings

#### † The ancient text of the Nicene Creed reads ‘catholic’, meaning the “whole” church (not one denomination) as it confesses the wholeness of Christian doctrine.

# We meditate on the hymn ‘Deck thyself, my soul, in gladness’

### 1. Robe yourself, my soul, in gladness,

### leave sin's gloomy den of sadness,

### come where God in light is waiting,

### come, begin the celebrating!

### For the Lord brings me salvation,

### issues me his invitation;

### God most holy comes to win me,

### comes from heaven to live within me.

### 2. Quickly let me go to meet him,

### like a bride run out to greet him.

### With his grace he stands there knocking;

### let me now, my doors unlocking,

### open wide the way before him,

### say to him, as I adore him:

### Come, dear Lord, let me receive you,

### do not let me ever leave you.

### 3. How I hunger, loving Saviour,

### for your goodness and your favour!

### Often has my heart been burning;

### for this food have I been yearning,

### often thirsting for refreshing

### in this cup of life and blessing,

### given by him who here invites us,

### and to God himself unites us.

### 4. All our thinking, as we ponder,

### cannot comprehend this wonder,

### that this living bread is boundless

### though the people fed are countless,

### and that Christ his blood is giving

### with the wine we are receiving.

### What a mystery, of God's planning,

### past all human understanding!

### 5. Jesus, sun of life, my splendour,

### Jesus, joy, and friend most tender,

### Jesus, source of all my being,

### all my thoughts and actions seeing:

### at your feet I fall before you;

### make me worthy to enjoy you

### in this feast that you have given

### as my food, the food from heaven.

### 6. Lord, your love for us has driven

### you to leave your throne in heaven,

### willingly to come and suffer,

### your own life for us to offer,

### and, with great determination,

### shed your blood for our salvation.

### This we drink now, loving Saviour,

### to remember you forever.

### 7. Jesus, bread of life, I pray you,

### let me cheerfully obey you,

### and accept your invitation

### for my good, not condemnation.

### Let me eat this supper, knowing

### what great love, Lord, you are showing.

### Now on earth these gifts you give me;

### as your guest in heaven receive me.

#### Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele

#### Ascr Johann Franck 1618-77

#### tr Catherine Winkworth 1827-78

#### rev in 'Lutheran Hymnal' (1973) and David Schubert (1989)

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# God speaks to us (SERMON)

# We meditate on the song ‘God and man at table are sat down’

### 1. O welcome, all ye noble saints of old,

### As now before your very eyes unfold

### The wonders all so long ago foretold:

### God and man at table are sat down.

### God and man at table are sat down.

### 2. Elders, martyrs, all are falling down,

### Prophets, patriarchs are gath'ring round.

### What angels longed to see now man has found:

### God and man at table are sat down.

### God and man at table are sat down.

### 3. Who is this who spreads the vict'ry feast,

### Who is this who makes our warring cease?

### Jesus, risen Saviour, Prince of Peace:

### God and man at table are sat down.

### God and man at table are sat down.

### 4. Beggars, lame, and harlots also here;

### Repentant publicans are drawing near,

### Wayward sons come home without a fear:

### God and man at table are sat down.

### God and man at table are sat down.

### 5. Worship in the presence of the Lord

### With joyful songs and hearts in one accord,

### And let our host at table be adored:

### God and man at table are sat down.

### God and man at table are sat down.

### 6. When at last this earth shall pass away,

### When Jesus and his bride are one to stay,

### The feast of love is just begun that day:

### God and man at table are sat down.

### God and man at table are sat down.

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# We give of ourselves

## Thank you, Lord, for inviting us to your feast, and showering on us so many good things.

### Help us to value the privilege of being your people and serving you. Lead us gladly to accept your call, and use us to bring others to your banquet.

### Amen.

# We pray for others

## *The Lord is near; he is with us to give us his favour. Let us put our worries aside and, with prayer and thanksgiving, let us make our requests known to God.*

## Gracious Father: praise be to your blessed name for your mercy and kindness to us. You have come to us, full of grace and truth. Before the foundation of the world you chose as your own, to be holy and blameless in your sight. You predestined us to be adopted as your children through Jesus Christ. This was your pleasure and will, and we in turn thank and praise you.

## Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

## How wondrous is your holy church, composed of redeemed sinners like us. Bless your church, so that she may shine with your Son’s light in this world. Revive and refresh us by your Holy Spirit so that we can confess your name before others, pray fervently for our neighbour, and demonstrate your love through good works. Be with all pastors and church workers in every congregation in this land, so that they can speak your word in truth and power and care for the flock entrusted to them. We thank you for the women of our church and their willingness to use their talents to serve you in many ways. Be with the leaders of the LCA: guide them, protect them, and help them to work together in your name.

## Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

## How blessed we are to enjoy the freedoms and prosperity of this country. Bless this land, all who live in it, all who visit it, and all who lead our nations affairs. Give us a love of truth and justice. Help all citizens to serve their neighbour through their vocation. Help those who are unemployed or whose work is difficult or dangerous or stressful. Strengthen all families and the bond of marriage. Give all children and young people a renewed respect for their parents, and guide all parents in raising their children.

## Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

## How great is your power that you guide the nations of the world. Continue to curb evil and bring oppression to an end. We pray for the modern state of Israel, and all who live in Palestine. You came to what was your own, but your own people did not receive you. Turn the hearts of the Jewish people to your Son, their Messiah, and help all Gentiles to bear witness to you in love.

## Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

## Father, you have chosen us to receive the peace that only you can give. Guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and hear the prayers we offer in his name.

### Amen.

# Jesus leads us in thanksgiving

## The Lord be with you. 2 Tim 4:22

## **And also with you.**

## Lift up your hearts. Col 3:1

## **We lift them to the Lord.**

## Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. Ps 136

## **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## It is indeed right and good, Lord God, holy Father, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## On this day he overcame death by his resurrection and opened up for us the way to eternal life with you.

## And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we adore and praise your glorious name:

# We join the angels in heavenly praise

### Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;

### the whole earth is full of his glory. Isa 6:3

### Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!

### Hosanna in the highest! Matt 21:9

# Jesus consecrates the bread and wine as his body and blood…

## Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, and said: Take and eat; this is † my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

## In the same way he took the cup, after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink of it, all of you; this is † my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

#### Based on Matt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19-20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

# We pray the prayer of Jesus

### Our Father in heaven,

### hallowed be your name,

### your kingdom come,

### your will be done,

### on earth as in heaven.

### Give us today our daily bread.

### Forgive us our sins

### as we forgive those who sin against us.

### Lead us not into temptation,

### but deliver us from evil. *Matt 6:9-13*

### For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

# Jesus offers peace

## The peace of the Lord be with you always. Jn 20:19

### Amen.

# Jesus gives us his body and blood

# Jesus dismisses us in peace

## The body of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and his precious blood strengthen you in body and soul to life eternal.

## Go in peace.†

### Amen.

# Jesus leads us in thanksgiving

## Lord, in this sacrament you have placed into our open hands the body and blood of Christ. Open not only our hands, but our hearts also, so that we recognise your goodness, count all things loss in comparison with you, and desire to be made like you. We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Amen.

# The Triune God sends us out with blessing

## Go in peace. Rejoice in the Lord, and serve him with the power that he gives.

## 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 favour †,

## and give you peace. Num 6:24-26

### **Amen**.

# We meditate on the song ‘Come to the banquet’

### 1. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### Though you maybe have no money,

### though you maybe feel unworthy,

### in your strength or in your weakness

### you are welcome, come.

### 2. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### See, you are an honoured guest,

### from constant serving you may rest;

### so sit you down, be fed and blessed,

### for you are welcome, come.

### 3. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### Woman. wise one, mother, maiden,

### see your plate with food is laden

### and your place is set and waiting. .

### You are welcome, come.

### 4. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### Worker, father, little boy,

### old man or youth without employ,

### come rest your worry, here is joy,

### and you are welcome, come.

### 5. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### Whether you've been lost or faithful,

### whether you've been wise or wasteful,

### here's a place of rest and grace,

### and you are welcome, come.

### 6. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### Here is one who runs to meet you,

### loving arms stretched out to greet you.

### Do not let your fear defeat you.

### You are welcome, come.

### 7. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### Willing hands have made this bread

### with yeast and salt and labour shared.

### Let all the hungry ones be fed.

### You are welcome, come

### 8. *Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.*

### Abundant wine, enough for all!

### Our generous, loving host has called.

### The cup of blessing now is poured

### for sweet communion, come.

### Come to the banquet, there's a place for you.

#### Words and music: Fay White

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# Announcements