

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii'i

Ka Hale Pule 'O Na Lahui Apau . . .

Church Of All Peoples . . .

. . . Hele Pu Makou me Iesu Kristo

. . . Walking Together With Christ

October 11, 2020

The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii'i

4602 Ho'omana Road, Lihue, HI 96766

Rev. Joseph Paxton, Pastor – Arnold Leong, Lector

Rhonda Pabo, Organists – Mark Murie, Cantor – Tony Kment, Video/Audio

Church: (808) 245-2145 Fax: (808) 246-8626

E-Mail: lihuelutheran@gmail.com Website: lihuelutheranchurch.com

Welcome to the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost!

Introduction

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Overview

Expensive Wedding. Expensive Grace.

On a recent reality TV show entitled *Wedding Wars*, engaged couples competed for a complete wedding wardrobe. The winning couple received the bride's dress and the groom's tuxedo as well as proper attire for their entire wedding party. The estimated cash value was \$30,000. Getting married is not cheap.

In today's gospel Jesus tells a parable about a wedding invitation, a banquet, and God's grace. Jesus teaches about a king who ultimately invites all people to a wedding banquet. At first this parable seems to portray a wide open and gracious invitation to a wedding celebration. However, by the end it is hard not to feel sorry for the poor guy who gets a last-minute invitation but gets thrown out for not wearing the correct wedding duds! He apparently wasn't a winner on that era's counterpart of that reality TV show! Again, getting married is not cheap—but neither is grace.

Jesus tells this parable as a way of teaching us that receiving God's grace changes people. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer taught, God's grace is not cheap, it comes at a great cost upon the cross. Once we receive this costly grace, our lives are never the same. This grace compels us to act and calls us to bear fruit with our lives. Ultimately we are led to share this grace with others. To continue to live in the same way after receiving this gracious invitation is not an option. So what are we to do? We simply receive the gracious invitation to the banquet and find a changing room—it's time to live a new life.

Announcements

1. Food distribution (LCC + LLC + LMC) – update and date (Nov 7 @ Vet's Center)
2. Food Bank distribution help – Thursday, November 19!
3. #GrowthInGrace Gardening Team – prepping for a launch date – we need organizers and leads
4. The Glory Project hosts Alpha (March, 21') – volunteers to **cook and clean**: 10-week course
5. Youth Group – parent volunteers for weekly meals + sanitization assistance

Weekly Events

1. Hybrid – Virtual + Local Youth Group
 - a. **Sunday, October 11**, 5:30-7:00pm, @ Fellowship Hall
 - b. **Zoom Link** - <https://zoom.us/j/92234312100>
2. College and Young Adults Ministry
 - a. **Tuesday, October 13**, 5:30-7:00pm @ Fellowship hall
3. Women's Book Study – Molokai'i
 - a. **Wednesday, October 14**, @ 7:30-8:30pm via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96513446272>
4. Bible Study – “The Twelve” - Zephaniah
 - a. **Thursday, October 15**, @ 5:00-6:30pm @ Fellowship hall + Pupus and BYOB!
5. Centering Prayer with Liedeke Bulder
 - a. **Saturday, October 17**, @ 9-10am via zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9079773456>

Prayer Concerns

Please remember these people in your prayers during the week: Jake Whisenhunt, Rick Rentz, Stan Weeks, Judy Hoffman, Norman Dibble, Marie Johnson, Minora Higa, Kazue Zaima, Virginia Hines-Aflague, John Mattek, Girald II (Bobby Girald's son), Kristie Schmid (Tony's sister), Lolli Hagen, Abraham Torres, Sr., Kristy Kahananui, Sonny Koerte, Joan Duarte Ebesu, Mallory Rodriguez, Steve Schantz, Leonarda Cadiz, Peter Alisna, Lea Cadiz, Tirzah Pope, John McIntyre, Pastor Matthew Weber, Joyce Anglemyer, Stephen Shioi, Peggy Hood, Jason Shimono, Richard Rasay, Nancy Nelson (formely Mandell), Karen & Patrick Pavao, Edward Rasay, Richard Duarte (Friend of Kurt Javinar), Karen Richards (friend of Nancy Mandell), Marcos Larson (Liedeke's son), Dora Jane Rowell, Franklin Parraga, Penny Parraga, Leticia Ancog (Kurt Javinar's sister), Yvonne Shinseki, Al Dressler (Larry's Father), Shirley Hallman (Denese Alcott's Mother), Mercy Ballesteros, Mike LaBerge, Anna Marie & Phil Croghan, Judy Carlson, Caroline Johnson, Sheila Belarmino, Ray Roderick, The Church Council, and leaders in the ELCA. If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know. “Ask it in my name . . .” Mahalo for your love.

Remembering our Military

As we gather for worship, please remember those serving us in the military, and the families of our Hawai'i National Guard. These names have been given by loved ones and family members: Navy – TJ, Javinar, Kristian Matsumoto, Coast Guard - Brian Rodriguez, Navy - Kiana Alisna, Coast Guard - Ke'ale Renta Army - Jason Lumacad, Levi Fajardo: Air Force - Steven Javinar, Ikaika Fajardo, Army - Brandon Perkinson, Drew Cox, Tony Garton: National Guard - Benji MacKenzie, Eddie Resinto, Fred Casticimo, Philip Kamakea, Anthony Y. Torres, Master Sgt. If you know of someone you would like added to our prayer list, please advise the church office.

God is With Us

When we struggle and when we suffer, we can sometimes feel isolated, alone, or abandoned. The spiral of pain can take us to the quick destination of desperation and despair. We need the Word of God to remind us that God is indeed with us and *has not* forsaken us. Instead, we are reminded that God is indeed The Good Sheperd. Draw near with hearts of gladness.

Welcome, Check-In, and Announcements

Type into the Facebook chatbox and respond to one, or more, of the following four check-in prompts

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P We are gathered in the name of the Father, Makua, and of the + Son, Keiki Kane, and of the Holy Spirit, Uhane Hemolele.

C Amen

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Faithful God,

C 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 judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gifts 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.

P 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 the freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

Gathering Song

ELW 705

God of Grace and God of Glory

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
 Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

**Apostolic Greeting*

- P** The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
C And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

- P** 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.
C Amen

**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.

- ¹O 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.
²For 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.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For 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,
⁵the 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.

⁶On 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.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸he 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.

⁹It 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.

A The Word of the Lord C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm (to be read responsively)

Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (*Ps. 23:5*)

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

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

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

A The Word of the Lord C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord;
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

**The Holy Gospel*

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to
Saint Matthew, the twenty-second
chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again 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.’ ⁵But they made

light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so 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 a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then 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.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Song of the Day

ELW 471

Let Us Break Bread Together



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees;
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees;
 3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees;



let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees.



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing



sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: BREAK BREAD TOGETHER, African American spiritual

**Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church*

P Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A 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,

C hear our prayer.

A 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,

C hear our prayer.

A Gracious host, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of diplomats, international peace workers, and world leaders who navigate conflict. May they proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevails. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Gracious host, let your gentleness be known among those who are weary or ill (*especially*). Strengthen doctors, medical care workers, and caretakers who see to their needs. Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Gracious host, when we are quick to judge outward appearance, remind us how you clothe all in your mercy. We pray for ministries that provide needed clothing and other personal care assistance in this community (*local ministries can be named*). Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

A Be with our Ohana off island. As places around our nation re-open and re-close, be with them. Place hedges of protection around them as they go about their daily activities. Hold them in your love until they are able to come be with us again. God of our salvation,

C hear our prayer.

P All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord.

C Amen

Queen's Prayer

Piano

Pno

O kou a - lo - ha no A i - a i ka La - ni, A
 No - lai - la e ka - Haku Ma - la - lo kou e - he - u, Ko

o kou oi - a i - o, He he - mo - le - le hoi
 ma-kou ma - lu - hi - a, A mau loa a - ku no. A - me - ne.

English Translation

1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy,
 Is high as the Heavens.
 It tells us of thy truth.
 And 'tis filled with holiness

3. For thy grace I beseech thee.
 Bring us 'neath thy protection.
 And peace will be thy portion
 Now and forever more. Amen

Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share peace in the Facebook live chatbox with one another.

**Offering Prayer*

P Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

Offertory

When it comes to gifts, tithes, and offerings it is no simple act or action. Instead, it is a marvelous and supernatural work of both grace and faith. For in your giving you partner fully with us in the ministries we support. For example, though you may not have joined us in our ministry outreach and food distribution, your donations contribute to God's work and our hands! Our ministries, quite literally, are not possible with your generosity and support! Know this, that the act of giving is no small task but a grand one that is reaching people and impacting lives!

If, in this discernment, God puts it on your heart to give, donations can be made online, mailed in, or given on our website [here](#) or you can copy and paste the weblink below @

https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUldiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpoomld6BrVzd2nGop8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3

Offertory Song

Lord of Aloha

God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,
 5 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.
 9 Auth - or of mer - cy, Giv - er of grace, Bles - sed Re - deem - er who died in our place, Fath - er of one O
 14 ha - na are you, Lift - ing our voic - es we sing "Al - le - lu" Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.
 19 God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,
 23 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.
 27 Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

Sacramental Remembrance of Communion

*Lord's Prayer (spoken in unison)

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.

*Blessing

P Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C Amen

Sending Song

ELW 547

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune
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Dismissal

A Go in peace! Serve the poor! **C Thanks be to God**

Upcoming Commemorations

Teresa of Ávila (Teresa de Jesús), teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582

Thursday, October 15, 2020

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115

Saturday, October 17, 2020

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

GOD IS WITH US

Perhaps the most alarming stories in the Bible typically reveal, and don't deal, with hardship or suffering. This is not including Jesus' miracles and works in the New Testament. Especially in the prophets, and the minor prophets, we see horrible social and cultural situations that have led to the systemic oppression and structural violence against (usually) the most vulnerable in a society. And depending on which prophetic text you're reading, some nation is typically indicted on the charge that they sit "idly" and "do nothing" while this occurs.

The people who are struggling and suffering, not just personally and spiritually, but socially, culturally, and systemically, are left with little hope. Yet, out of the dust and in the midst of the ashes, God arises in only a way that God can to bring peace and grace and God's presence.

In many ways, I think this provides a strong psychological perspective (versus sociological reading) of liberation theology. God certainly desires for systems and structures of violence to be removed – and God certainly does this throughout the Old Testament. But in a very real way, when systems and structures refuse to change, God moves within the hearts and minds of God's faithful to bring about help and hope in the midst of suffering.

This speaks powerfully to those who's situations or conditions have not changed, or cannot change. Maybe there are some who are *still* waiting for unemployment checks; maybe there are those who are still waiting for a cure for an illness they are facing, or a change in their physical condition; maybe there are those who are *still* waiting for the doctors to finally figure out what is going wrong within their body; or maybe there are those who are stuck in a job, situation, or context that is bringing tremendous stress or suffering. There doesn't seem to be a way out because the pain is too pervasive. But as we see not only in our Old Testament lesson and the Gospel, the blessing of God's Kingdom is a reality that can be experienced, *here and now*, today! Because God **is** the Good Shepherd. God can and will and does give us peace in the midst of pain! This is why Paul can say, "Rejoice." Because we do not serve a dead King or an unresponsive or distant God who is far from us. Instead, we serve a God who is ever-present and near to us, who knows our struggles and knows our trials intimately, and this God walks with us in our sufferings. (Read Isaiah 43:1-2).