



The Kingdom Parables of Jesus: The Wedding Feast

*“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king
who gave a wedding feast for his son.”
(Matt 22:2)*

Call to Worship

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!

**To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honour and glory and might
forever and ever. Amen!**

Rev 5:12-13

Let us pray.

**Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.**

**Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts to me.
My heart cries out and even faints,
the courts of God to see.
The sparrow finds a place to nest,
beside your throne of grace.
Oh how I long to find my rest,
and dwell with you always.

A pilgrim now for all my days,
my gaze is set above.
The desert blooms with autumn rains,
You bless the ones you love.

Your people go
from strength to strength,
until we see your face.
Your eyes are turned to us in love,
You hear us when we pray.

I'd rather live for just one day
and gaze upon my Lord.
Than spend a lifetime far away
from where your praise is heard.
There's no good thing you will withhold,
from those who follow you,
O Lord my sun and mighty shield
my soul will trust in you.

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Confession and Assurance

Hear what God's word says:

"O LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether."
Ps 139:1-4

Have mercy on us, O God

**According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion.**

God's word tells us:

*"If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*
1 Jn 1:8-10

Therefore, let us confess our sins against God, and against our neighbour,
first in silence and then aloud together.

Please kneel or be seated.

Prayer of Confession

Almighty and most merciful God,

**We confess to you that we are by nature sinful and unclean,
and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed;
not only in outward transgressions, but also in secret thoughts and desires
that we are not able to understand, but which are all known to You.
For this reason, we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy,
seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him
should not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it
mount of God's redeeming love.

Here I find my greatest treasure;
hither by thy help I've come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
bought me with his precious blood.

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let thy goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

*Robert Robinson, 1758
The Psalter Hymnal, 1987*

Psalm 124

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side —

**let Israel now say —
if it had not been the Lord who was on our side
when people rose up against us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,**

when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away,
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone the raging waters.

**Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth!**

We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the fowlers;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped!

**Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and
shall be forever, age after age. Amen**

God's Word

First Reading: Rev 19:1-10, p. 1039

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Matt 22:1-14, p. 827

This is the Word of the Lord,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Wedding Feast (Mark Payne)

Psalm 45 (O King)

O King, you are most worthy,
of men you are the best
Your words are true and gracious,
you are forever blessed
Take up your sword in splendour,
ride forth in majesty
For justice and mercy
and true humility
Your arrows pierce your enemies,
you march across the land
The peoples and the nations
against you cannot stand

Your throne will last forever,
with justice you shall reign
You love all that is righteous
and hate all evil gain
So God has richly blessed you
with joy abundantly
Your robes are all fragrant,
your courts are ivory
There princesses attend you,
sweet music from of old
Your future queen awaits you
arrayed in finest gold

O bride forsake all others,
don't give your love abroad
The king desires your beauty;
so honour him your Lord
The gown he gives is glorious,
the threads are twined with gold
In shimmering colours
the envy of the world
A joyful crowd is with her,
with gladness now they sing
And finally she enters
the palace of the king

This king will reign forever,
his sons upon the earth
And ev'ry generation
will tell of his great worth
All nations will soon praise him
and fall down at his feet
His kingdom established,
where truth and mercy meet
O Jesus we adore you,
our lover and our king
Your church, your bride is waiting
and so to you we sing

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The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who 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 to the dead. 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 Intercession

After each petition:

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

As our Saviour taught us, let us 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.
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.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

All baptised Christians who trust in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and seek to lead a new life by God's mercies, are welcome at this table. If you do not profess faith in Christ, simply allow the bread and wine to pass by, and reflect on what is taking place.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Please join in saying the Sanctus ("The Holy", based on Isaiah 6:3)

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for reassuring us at this meal of your favour and goodness towards us, of your word for us.

We thank you that we are truly members of the body of your Son, and that we are heirs, by grace, of your eternal kingdom.

We humbly beg you, heavenly Father, to keep us as faithful members of your church, to strengthen us by your Spirit, to draw us together in love and unity, that we may serve through those good works which you have prepared for us to do through Jesus Christ our Lord, and for His glory, Amen.

Gifts and Offerings

Gifts and offerings may be placed in the offertory box at the back of the hall. *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor 9:6-7)*

Tell Out My Soul

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings
give my spirit voice;
tender to me
the promise of his word –
in God my Saviour
shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of his might!
Powers and dominions
lay their glory by;
proud hearts and stubborn wills
are put to flight,
the hungry fed,
the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul,
the greatness of his name!
Make known his might,
the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure,
from age to age the same –
his holy name:
the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul,
the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise,
and his mercy sure:
tell out, my soul,
the greatness of the Lord
to children's children
and for evermore!

Benediction

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

In the Name of Christ, Amen.

Notes & Notices

Kingdom Parables of Jesus

Kingdom Growth & Judgement (ch. 13)

- Sower.
- Weeds.
- Mustard Seed.
- Leaven.

Kingdom Fruitfulness & Judgement (ch. 21, 22)

- Fig Tree.
- Two Sons.
- Tenants.
- Wedding Feast.

Kingdom Citizens & Final Judgement (ch. 25)

- Ten Virgins.
- Talents.

Please diarise and pray for the items below:

NEXT WEEK		
Thu 8 September	Psalm Sing	At church
Sun 11 September	Morning Worship	Matthew 25:1-13
Fri 16 September	Bert Rings' Funeral	10am at Salisbury Crematorium with refreshments at CCS afterwards

FURTHER AHEAD		
Thu 22nd Sep	Annual Church Mtg	Please diarise