

**NARRATIVE LECTIONARY—YEAR 1—WEEK 25  
3RD SUNDAY IN LENT**



**“DON’T ATTEND? ATTEND? DANGERS EITHER WAY”**

**MATTHEW 22:1-14  
PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST  
SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 2023**

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***BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL***

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LANCE RASMUSSEN IN MEMORY OF PAT'S BIRTHDAY



**1 CORINTHIANS SERVICE**

Worship in a traditional order that uses portions of 1 Corinthians.

**Anthem**      ***I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord***      **Cherub Choir**

**Opening Hymn**

***As We Gather At Your Table***

ELW 522



1 As we gath-er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,  
2 Turn our wor-ship in - to wit-ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;  
3 Gra-cious Spir - it, help us sum-mon oth-er guests to share that feast



help us know, O God, your pres-ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
send us forth to love and serve you, bring-ing peace where there is strife.  
where tri - um-phant Love will wel-come those who had been last and least.



Nour-ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;  
Give us, Christ, your great com-pas-sion to for - give as you for - gave;  
There no more will en - vy blind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



teach us through this ho - ly ban-quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.  
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound-ing joy.

**Invocation** (Based on 1 Corinthians 1:2-3)

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: To the church of God, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy,

C: **Together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,**

P: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **Amen.**

**Confession and Absolution** (Based on 1 Corinthians 10:6-13, 15:56-57, 5:7a)

P: Paul warns the Corinthians from Israel’s history: “Do not be idolaters,” “we should not test the Lord,” and “do not grumble.” “So if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” Do you recognize that you are tempted in many ways?

C: Yes.

P: “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.”

All: **“But thanks be to God!**

**He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.”**

P: “For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed” for our sins.

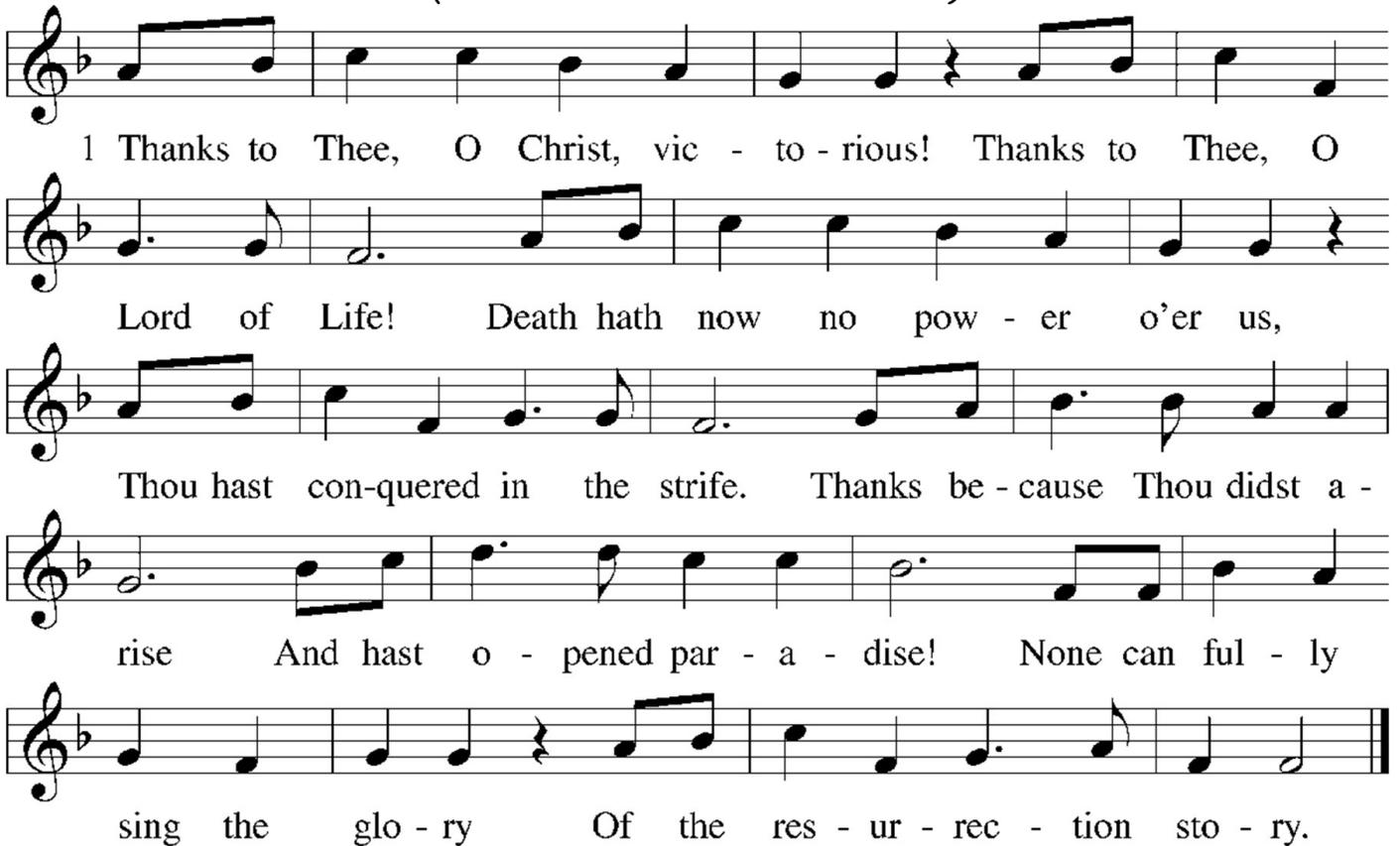
C: Amen!

**Hymn of Praise**

**Thanks to Thee, O Christ, Victorious**

LSB # 548, st. 1

(based on 1 Corinthians 15:56-57)



1 Thanks to Thee, O Christ, vic - to - rious! Thanks to Thee, O  
Lord of Life! Death hath now no pow - er o'er us,  
Thou hast con- quered in the strife. Thanks be - cause Thou didst a -  
rise And hast o - pened par - a - dise! None can ful - ly  
sing the glo - ry Of the res - ur - rec - tion sto - ry.

**Today's Narrative Lectionary Reading**

**Matthew 22:2-14 (ESV)**

**Jesus:** <sup>2</sup> The kingdom of heaven is like a king whose son was getting married. The king organized a great feast, *a huge wedding banquet*. <sup>3</sup> He invited everyone he knew. The day of the wedding arrived, and the king sent his servants into town to track down his guests—but when the servants approached them with the king's message, they refused to come. <sup>4</sup> So the king sent out another batch of servants.

**King:** Tell those people I've invited to come to the wedding banquet! *Tell them I have prepared a great feast! Everything is ready! The oxen and fattened cattle have all been butchered, the wine is decanted, and the table is laid out just so.*

<sup>5</sup> And off the servants went, and they carried the king's message to the errant guests—who still paid not a whit of attention. One guest headed into his field to work; another sat at his desk to attend to his accounts. <sup>6</sup> The rest of the guests actually turned on the servants, brutalizing them and killing them. <sup>7</sup> When he learned of this, the king was furious. He sent his army to kill the murderers and burn their towns. <sup>8</sup> But there was, of course, still a wedding to celebrate.

**King (to his remaining servants):** The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited didn't rise to the occasion. <sup>9</sup> So go into the streets and invite anyone you see; invite everyone you meet.

<sup>10</sup> And the servants did just that—they went into the streets and invited everyone they met, *rich and poor, good and bad, high and low, sick and well*. Everyone who was invited came, and the wedding hall practically burst with guests.

<sup>11</sup> The king looked around the wedding party with glee, but he spotted one man who was not dressed *appropriately*. In fact, he was dressed rather plainly, in clothes not at all fitting for a fine nuptial feast.

**King:** <sup>12</sup> Kind sir, how did you get in here without a proper suit of wedding clothes? The man was speechless. *He had been invited in off the street, after all!* <sup>13</sup> Getting no response, the king told his servants,

**King:** Tie him up, and throw him out into the outer darkness, where there is weeping and grinding of teeth.

<sup>14</sup> For many are invited, but few are chosen.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus, Our Bridegroom, You invite all who are burdened with sin to come to Your to the heavenly feast, prepared for us by Your saving work of the cross and resurrection. Preserve us from impenitence and unbelief, cleanse us from our unrighteousness, and clothe us with the righteousness purchased with Your blood. Strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and assure us a place at Your heavenly table, where we will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of Your pleasure forever and ever. Hear us, Jesus, for Your own sake.

C: Amen.

**Anthem**                      **Praise the Name of Jesus**                      **Junior Choir**

**Children's Message**

**Hymn of the Day**                      **The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us**

LSB 514



1 The Bride-groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed-ding feast."  
2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re-deem-er's face;  
3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,  
4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;



May slum-ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful - ness de - crease.  
The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:  
From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,  
With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,



May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more  
The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;  
From sick-ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,  
While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least



That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!  
A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.  
And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.  
A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

Text: Johann Walter, 1496–1570; (st. 1): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (sts. 2–4): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt. Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius, , Text (st. 1): © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: Hymn License. 110001267

**Sermon**      **“Don't Attend? Attend? Dangers Either Way”**      **Matthew 22:1-14**

**Song of Praise**

**Jesus, Name Above All Names**



1. Je - sus,                      name a - bove    all    names,                      beau - ti - ful    Sav - ior,  
2. Je - sus,                      lov - ing    Shep - herd,                      Vine of the    branch - es,



glo - ri - ous    Lord. \_\_\_\_\_    Em - man - u - el,                      God\_\_ is  
Son\_\_ of    God; \_\_\_\_\_    Prince of Peace,                      Won - der - ful



with\_\_ us,                      bless - ed Re - deem - er,                      Liv - ing Word. \_\_\_\_\_  
Coun - se - lor,                      Lord of the    u - ni - verse,                      Light of the world. \_\_\_\_\_

**Confession of Faith**

1 Corinthians 15:1-6a,20-22,58

P: Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance:

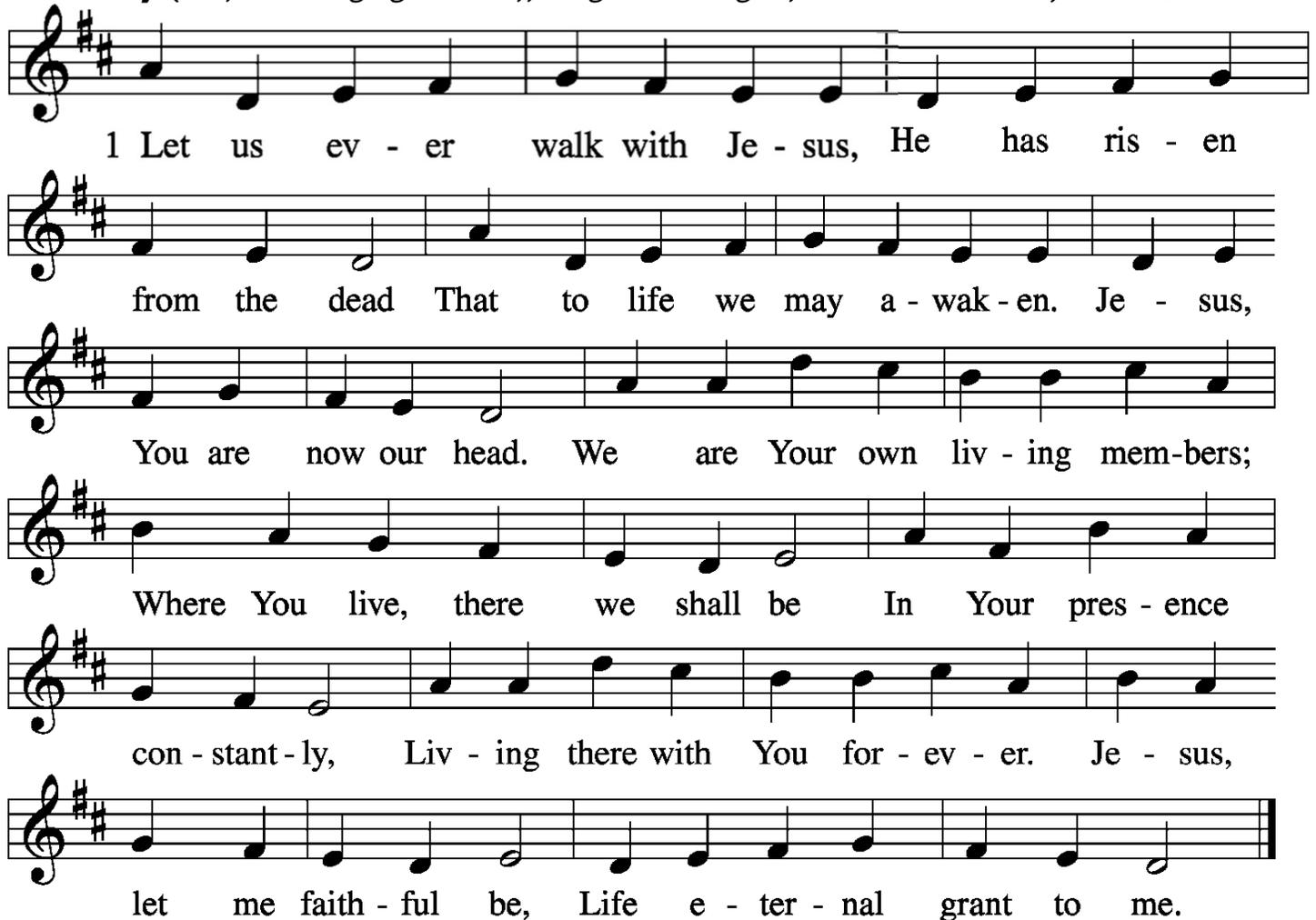
**C: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time. Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. Amen.**

P: Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Amen.

## Offering & Prayer Requests

In addition to the prayer requests already received, Pastor will pause here to see if there are additional requests. Prayers can be thanksgivings, joy, requests for yourself, or requests for others.

**Offertory** (we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar) LSB 685, st. 4 alt.



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, He has ris - en  
from the dead That to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus,  
You are now our head. We are Your own liv - ing mem - bers;  
Where You live, there we shall be In Your pres - ence  
con - stant - ly, Liv - ing there with You for - ev - er. Je - sus,  
let me faith - ful be, Life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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## Prayers

### **The Lord's Prayer**

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

**Benediction (Blessing)** (Based on 1 Corinthians 1:5,7-9 & 16:23)

P: “In Christ Jesus you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: **God, who has called us into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ, is faithful.”**

P: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

C: **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**Spread the Reign of God the Lord**

LSB 830 sts. 1–3, 6



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;  
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,  
3 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race  
6 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, Rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;



Ev - 'ry - where His crea - tures call To His heav' n - ly ban - quet hall.  
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.  
And to pay re - bel - lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.  
Let the gath - 'ring na - tions all See Your light and heed Your call.

Text: Jonathan Friedrich Bahnmaier, 1774–1841; tr. composite  
Tune: Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch, 1704, Halle, ed. Johann A. Freylinghausen, alt.

**Announcements**

**Acknowledgements**

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