20th Sunday after Trinity Rev. Jonathan D. Meyer, Pastor Pastor Meyer-(979) 540-7973 Our website – www.trinity-stjames.org

Color-GREEN [Life and regeneration]
Our email address – lexington.fedor.lcms@ gmail.com
Church-(979) 773-2634

HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH - FEDOR

The Elder-in-Charge – Charles Winkler

The Organist – Ruth Meyer

The Head Usher – Allan Urban

The Altar Guild – Michelle Holmes, Meloney Tucker

ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH - LEXINGTON

The Elder-in-Charge – Paul Rudd

The Organist – Dorothy Wachsmann

The Acolyte – Boone Brockenbush

The Head Usher – Wesley Boriack

The Finance Board – Ryan Brockenbush, Jeremy Brown, Tom Kleinschmidt, Clyde Lay

The Altar Guild – Tamara Boriack, Lynette Brown, Andrea Clifford

The Flowers – To the glory of God by Lillie Mae Boettcher in loving memory of Catherine Boettcher, Sophie Kaiser, and Erline Dunn.

<u>TO OUR VISITORS</u> - In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, we bid you welcome. May the Holy Spirit bless your, and our, hearing of the Word of God. *** Would you please sign the <u>GUEST REGISTER</u> [please also include your address] in the <u>NARTHEX</u> before leaving the church?

OUR WORSHIP THIS MORNING

THE ORDER OF MORNING SERVICE - PAGE 5 IN THE FRONT OF THE HYMNAL.

SILENT PRAYER upon entering the nave: Loving heavenly Father! I have come to hear Your Holy Word that makes the soul righteous. So then, put Your Holy Spirit in my heart that I may accept Your Gospel with awe and truly believe it. Amen.

SUMMARY OF TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS – 20TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Jesus Invites Us to His Wedding Feast to Receive Abundant Righteousness The Holy Spirit sounds forth the Gospel call: "See, I have prepared My dinner... Come to the wedding feast." (Matthew 22:1-14) But many reject this invitation in favor of worldly pursuits. And so the call goes out to others, both the good and the bad. For the wedding invitation is not based on the qualifications of those invited but on the basis of the merits and work of Christ. The feast is free: "He who has no money, come, buy and eat [and] delight yourselves in rich food." (Isaiah 55:1-9)

Those rejecting the Spirit's work shall experience God's wrath and judgment. Those who are not clothed in Christ's righteousness shall be cast into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Let us therefore seek the Lord while He may be found, for He will have mercy upon us. Let us redeem the time, being filled with the Spirit, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 5:15-21) (lems.org/lectionary-summaries)

READING FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS

Summary: According to the Doctrine of Divine Election, God has eternally elected or called all those who come to Him and believe in Him and His Son by the Holy Spirit and faith. As it is written, "Those whom [God] elected by grace He also called, those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified." (Romans 8:30) We and all Christians who are divinely-elected are so elected by God's grace alone in Christ Jesus. All who are not divinely-elected are not so elected because they endlessly refuse God's repeated, clarion call for them to "repent and believe the Gospel;" (Mark 1:15) that is, to believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. God is solely responsible for our salvation. Man is solely responsible for his damnation.

Now, let whoever is concerned about God's revealed will act on the order that St. Paul has described in the Epistle to the Romans. Paul first directs people to repentance (see Romans 1-2), to knowledge of sins, (see Romans 3:1-20) to faith in Christ (see Romans 3:21-5:21), to divine obedience. (See Romans 6-8)

"For God has consigned all [people] to disobedience, that He may have mercy on all [people.]" (Romans 11:32) [He does not wish] that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance," (2 Peter 3: 9) and believe in the Lord Christ.

However, "many are called, but few are chosen." (Matthew 22: 14) This does not mean that God is unwilling to save everybody. But the reason some are not saved is as follows: They do not listen to God's Word at all, but willfully despise it, plug their ears, and harden their hearts. In this way they block the ordinary way (see Luke 16:29-31) for the Holy Spirit so He cannot perform His work in them. Or, when they have heard God's Word, they make light of it again and ignore it. But their wickedness – not God – is responsible for this, that they perish [eternally]. (Book of Concord: Formula of Concord: Solid Declaration, Article 11 – God's Eternal Foreknowledge/Predestination, Paragraphs 10-12)

† IN THE NAME OF JESUS †

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING HYMN: 1 16

SERVICE OF THE WORD [PAGES 5 TO 14, FRONT OF HYMNAL]

INTROIT (ENTRANCE INTO THE SERVICE OF THE WORD)

PASTOR: The Lord is righteous in all He has done for us, for we have not obeyed His commandments. Glorify Your Name, O Lord; and deal with us according to Your mercy. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in the city of our God, His holy mountain. We have thought on Your steadfast love, O God, in the midst of Your temple. As Your Name, O God, so Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth. Your right hand is filled with righteousness. Let Mount Zion be glad! Let the daughters of Judah rejoice because of Your judgments! (Psalm 48:1, 9-11)

CONGREGATION:

☐ Glory be to the Father....

COLLECT (PRAYER) OF THE DAY

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, Who has prepared all things for our salvation, You have graciously called us to the marriage feast of Your dear Son, the Bridegroom of our souls. We therefore implore You to cleanse and direct our hearts, that we would never reject Your gracious invitation, but willingly trust in and follow Your Word. Keep us ever clothed in the garment of Your righteousness, so that we obtain eternal life together with all Your elect saints; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: A Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: OLD TESTAMENT LESSON – ISAIAH 55:1-9

P: ^{55:1} "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to Me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, My steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for He has glorified you.

⁶ "Seek the Lord while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE SMALL CATECHISM (SEE HALF-PAGE INSERT)

EPISTLE (LETTER) LESSON – EPHESIANS 3:14-21

P: ^{3:14}Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

TRIPLE HALLELUJAH AND READING OF THE GOSPEL LESSON – MATTHEW 22:1-14 C: J Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C: ■ Glory be to Thee, O Lord!

P: ^{22:1} And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, ² "The Kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, ³ and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast." ⁵ But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷ The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." ¹⁰ And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. ¹²And he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: I Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

APOSTLE'S CREED (CONFESSION OF FAITH) [PAGE 12]

HYMN OF THE DAY: □ 477

SERMON: COME, FOR EVERYTHING IS READY - MATTHEW 22:1-14

Hear; heed your Lord's words: "See, I have prepared My dinner...and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast." (Mt. 22:4)

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. Amen. In our Gospel lesson for today, our Lord Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a wedding celebration. How fitting His words are, for what better way to speak of the culmination of God's plan of salvation than a wedding party? When a man and a woman are united in holy matrimony, first there's a solemn wedding ceremony and then a celebration of the marital relationship that is to last the rest of their lives. The joy and happiness in heaven after this earthly life is like a wedding feast without end.

So with the example of a wedding party in mind, Christ our Lord says, "The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' "(Mt. 22:2-4) This is a symbolic story, teaching us – as it does – about the Kingdom of Heaven and its coming. So Who's the King of Heaven? God the Father Almighty. And the son is His only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

Our Lord of course didn't come from heaven to earth to marry a woman and raise a family but "to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mk. 10:45) – to take away the sin of the world as the Holy Lamb of God. (See Jn. 1:29) So His marriage isn't an earthly one – the type we're familiar with – but a heavenly one. The Bible speaks of the marriage of Christ to His dearly beloved bride, the Church. This is being united with Christ through faith in Him, His Word and teaching in this life, and abiding with Him forever in heaven. The marriage supper of God's Son therefore is yet-to-come, in heaven, and is assured for us and for all who're united to Him in faith and love.

What happens when the king sends out the invitation to his son's wedding feast? Those invited "paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them." (Mt. 22:5-6) The first guests invited by the Father are the Jews, the people of Israel. They're honored this way because they're the sons and daughters of the Kingdom as God's chosen people. God has early-and-often promised them the Savior and eternal life in Him. They ought to therefore accept the invitation with much gusto!

However, many of them reject God's invitation. While it's okay to decline a wedding invitation for certain reasons, such as a previous engagement, a health reason or a work obligation, this isn't that at all! This is casting God's invitation into the gutter after receiving it. What we see going on in the text is a double-rejection of God's summons to the wedding feast of His own dear Son. First, there's the rebuff of the initial invitation to attend the long-promised feast. When someone declines an invitation to a wedding in the way we see going on in our text, it shows a lack of respect for the host. Then there's the snub of the second, final, more earnest entreaty for the invitees to come to the banquet: "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready." (Mt. 22:4)

Many of the first invited guests have other priorities than attending the feast. Taking for granted the promises of God, they even forgot His Word. And when the king's servants, that is, the prophets of God, reaffirmed the Word of God or re-remind the people of the feast of God's salvation, what do they do but seize His servants, treat them scornfully and kill them! Furthermore, when the Son Himself proclaims the message of salvation, they slaughter Him too.

Then the king says: "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests." (Mt. 22:8-10) The wedding feast of the Son of God will go on, but sadly not with the original guests attending.

God the Father made a covenant with the people of Israel, yet they broke it. The original guests just wouldn't finally believe in God's promise concerning His Son. Then Jesus Christ made a New Covenant in His blood with all nations. This Covenant doesn't depend on our goodness or merits, or anything we might try to do to gain God's favor and access to the wedding feast. And so the invitation is for good and bad together. Indeed, we're all sinners and need a Savior for that reason.

However, this parable is a warning not only for Jews, but also for us. If we also take for granted the promises of God, we may lose the opportunity to attend the wedding feast of God's Son as well. So remain ever-faithful to Christ your dear Savior and His holy Church! We all "must pay much closer attention to what we have heard [from God's Word], lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared [to God's people in the Old Testament] proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation?" (Heb. 2:1-3)

Jesus concludes His Parable of the Wedding Banquet by mentioning a certain man who either wrongly presumes he's a proper, worthy guest of the wedding feast or doesn't care either way and is just there, though he really shouldn't be. 'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."' (Mt. 22:11-13) The custom at that time was this: If someone didn't have the money to buy new clothes for the wedding, the host would buy the proper wedding clothes for him. To attend the wedding without wedding attire also shows a lack of respect for the family. If we don't live as redeemed children of God; if unbelievers don't see any difference in our daily lives or can't pick us out from a lineup of their fellow unbelievers and the worldly-minded, then it's not a good witness on our part. It's not a good confession of our faith.

So if we arrive at the wedding feast with no evidence of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we'll lose the opportunity to enjoy eternal life in God's presence. So no "pretend" or "play-the-part-only" wedding guests allowed at the heavenly wedding feast!

Thank God that the invitation doesn't depend on us or our own works at all. For the wedding feast of Christ and the proper clothing for it are all provided for us as a precious gift – by God's pure grace through faith alone in His own dear Son! Christ Jesus died for all, so we're daily to take comfort in this and are not to take our invitation for granted so that we grow apathetic to it and reject it – because the day of judgment is coming. We must instead fear the wrath of God, yet all-the-more-so trust that Christ has suffered all God's just wrath against us, for us, and that it's not meant for us like God's wedding feast is.

"Blessed are you who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" (Rev. 19:9) Amen. The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

OFFERTORY (ANTHEM PRECEEDING THE OFFERING OF TITHES) [PAGES 22-23] OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
- **P:** Holy One of Israel, righteous in all Your works toward us, Your Name be glorified. Do not deal with us according to our sins but according to Your great compassion. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** Receive, O Lord, our praise and thanks for every good gift of Your grace. Fill us with Your Spirit, that we might walk wisely and redeem the time You give us on this earth. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** Merciful Lord, preserve the invitation of Your saving Gospel among us, that many may come together with us into Your Son's eternal wedding feast. Protect and vindicate Your servants who preach and teach Your Word. Guard their families from those who oppose their ministry and way of life. Open our ears to listen diligently to Your living, life-giving Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** Holy Father, send forth Your invitation to the marriage feast of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Overcome the apathy of this world, and draw many from its ways and hedges into Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**
- **P:** Gracious God, we give You thanks for the institution of holy marriage and the myriad blessings of family. Grant that these gifts would be cherished and honored in our society and especially in the Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** Almighty God, graciously preserve our nation and cause our leaders to serve faithfully and wisely, making Godpleasing decisions and walking in integrity. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** O Lord, give us bread that satisfies and everything needful not for our sakes, but graciously on account of Christ. Provide, we pray, for every need of body and soul, especially for _____. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** O Lord, You received the praise of harp and psaltery in Your temple of old. Bless the efforts of sacred musicians today to lead the praises of the ascended Lord among us to the edification of Your Church. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** God of all consolation, to Your loving care we commend all who have suffered from Hurricane Milton in Florida, especially members and member congregations of our Church body. Provide for all those in need of vital

supplies and care, comfort the grieving and assist those who still may be endangered by flooding or other threats. We pray as well for communities devastated by the storm, that they may be enabled to recover and rebuild. Lord in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.

- **P:** Providing Father, the winds and rains are in Your hands. Grant us needed rain, we pray. Bless our fields and those who work in them, our livestock and those who tend them, that they might be fruitful and provide for us. Help us also to love and serve our neighbor in all that we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** Giver of every good and perfect gift, we confess that no one living is righteous before You. Mercifully grant us grace, that we may stand before You on the Day of Judgment, clothed in the righteousness of Christ and giving You endless thanks and praise. Lord, in Your mercy, **C:** hear our prayer.
- **P:** Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C:** Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: **₰** 365

CONCLUDING COLLECTS

P: O Lord, grant to us, Your faithful people, pardon and peace, that we may be cleansed from all our sins and serve You with a quiet mind, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C:

☐ Amen.

P: O holy and righteous God, Who has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, and Who has given us our allotted season of grace, we implore You, since the days are evil and since we are easily misled through the weakness of our mortal nature, impart to us the grace of Your Holy Spirit, so that we may trust in Christ as our only Savior, live redeemed lives in His Name, walk soberly and wisely in this present world, always praise and thank You, and finally obtain the crown of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY †

Sunday Offerings Trinity Fodor

	OUR ATTENDANCE FROM LAST SUNDAY					
	Worship	Comm.	S.S.	& B.C.	Offerings	
Trinity	47	39		16	\$1,595.00	
St. James	45	39	3	13	\$2,048.00	

	Suliday Offernigs—Trinity, Fedor					
	Operating	Building	Missions	Cemetery	Week	
Goal	59,560.00					
Actual	77,050.72		6,260.00		40	
Last Week	1,205.00		390.00			

	Sunday Offerings–St. James, Lexington					
	Operating	Mission	Future Development	Total	Week	
Goal	105,400.00			105,400.00		
Actual	81,827.77	395.00	290.00	82,512.77	40	
Last Week	1,993.00	55.00		2,048.00		

THIS WEEK

*Elders (Holy Trinity) following the service

11:00AM: Roast Beef Dinner (St. James)...sponsored by the LWML

+DOOR COLLECTION (St. James) following the service to help with

the outstanding funeral expenses for Daisy Roensch

*Elders (St. James) following the service

2:30PM: Voters (Holy Trinity) 6:30PM: Voters (St. James)

WEDNESDAY 9:00AM: Quilting (St. James)

3:40PM: Week Day School

THURSDAY 10:00AM: Joint Bible Study (at St. James)

FRIDAY +Pastor's Day Off

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- ***We remember in our prayers:...at <u>Holy Trinity</u>...Tim Faske, Eldor Brade, Monroe Brade, Carolyn Nitsche;...at St. James...Guy Latimer, Ferman Iselt Jr., Jean Dowdy, Zoey Rudd, Della Biehle, Bernice Lay, Lois Turner, Darvin Drosche, Lillie Mae Boettcher, Tom Kleinschmidt, Ronnie Iselt, Egor Raines, Genell Boettcher, David Roensch, Ernest Biehle, Charles Kaiser, Ginger Clifford, Walter Dube Jr., Lorine Lerche, Tim Faske [relative and friend of St. James members], Ruth Siegmund [friend of St. James members], JoAnne Meyer [mother of Pastor Meyer], Carole Heller [mother of Juanita Clifford (St. James)], Amber Brockenbush [friend and relative of St. James members], and all of our sick and shut-ins.
- +++**Door Collection**...St. James...due to outstanding expenses for Daisy Roensch's funeral [around \$600], we will have a door collection <u>TODAY</u> for anyone who would want to contribute towards this is encouraged to do so.
- *** ROAST BEEF DINNER...will be held 700AU, October 6, beginning at 11am. All plate dinners are \$15 and available as take-out only. Your support is GREATLY appreciated!
- +++**St. James**...we have a variety of cards...available individually or by the box...see either Ruth Meyer or Sandra Lay!
- ***SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS...St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the subject of our Sunday morning Bible Class (Holy Trinity: 8-8:24AM; St. James:10-10:24AM). All are welcome to attend.
- +++Devotional book available: Copies are available in the office of Ruth Meyer's book, "**Truth Notes**", as well as her other books [*Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Hope Alone, and Stand Alone* (\$12.00)]. This devotional is based on her past blog post and point to God's timeless truths in a changing world. Books are \$15 each. See either Sandra Lay or Ruth Meyer to purchase yours!
- ***ST. JAMES...how about <u>YOU</u>! We are looking for Sunday School teachers to teach either every other Sunday or just once a month. YOU can do it..just contact the church office!!!
- +++Knitting & Crocheting Group...a group of ladies from Immanuel, Giddings, have been making warm hats and scarves for the needy. They're all created from donated yarn, however, now they are very low on yarn skeins and colors. <u>If anyone would have left over yarn</u> that they may put it in a bag and mark it "Knitting & Crocheting Group" and drop it off at the church office.
- ***QUILTING UPDATE...St. James LWML will be quilting every 3rd Wednesday of the month

from 9-12!!!

- +++THE FLOWER CHARTS...are posted in the Narthex at both Holy Trinity and St. James...sign up for birthdays, anniversaries, or "just because".
- ***BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK...St. James-Leonard Seifert, 14; James Speer, 15; Madalyne Boettcher, 16; Andrea Clifford, 18; Raegan Fritsch, 18; Abigail Shelly, 18; Crystal Hicks, 19. +++ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK...St. James-Lucas & Stefanie Raines, 17.