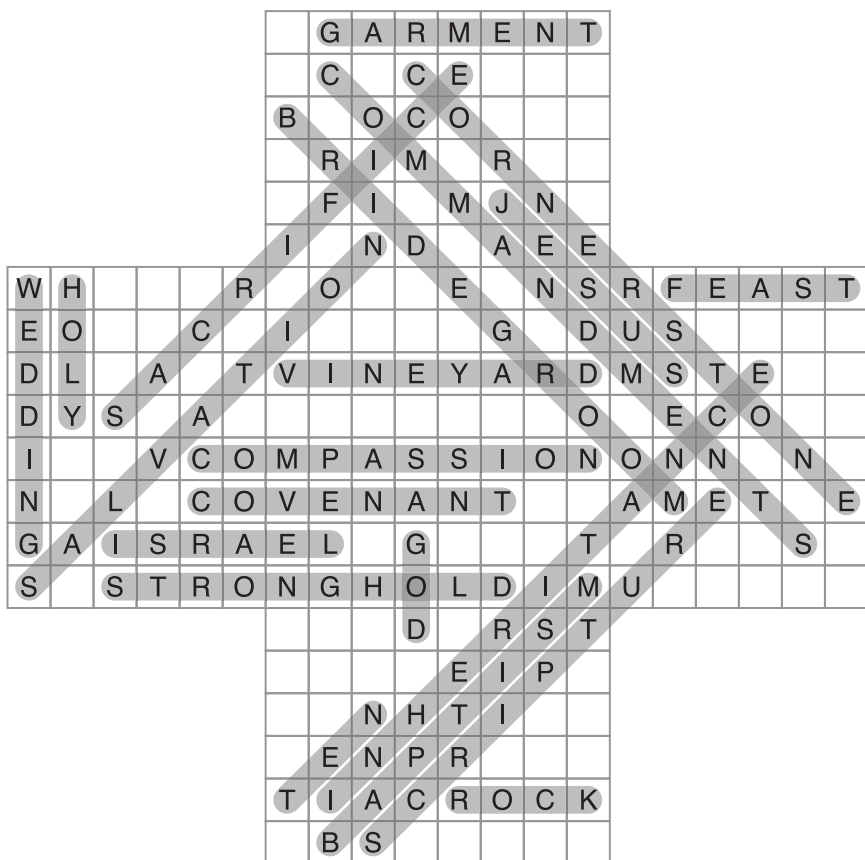


FRIDAY — ACTIVITY

Find the following words:

BAPTISM • BRIDEGROOM • COMMANDMENTS • COMPASSION
 CORNERSTONE • COVENANT • FEAST • GARMENT • GOD
 HOLY • INHERITANCE • ISRAEL • JESUS • ROCK • SACRIFICE
 SALVATION • SCRIPTURE • STRONGHOLD • TEN • VINEYARD
 WEDDING



Lambs at Pasture™

Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

2017

INTROIT

Psalm 48:1, 9–11; antiphon: Liturgical text

The Lord is righteous in all he has done to us,
for we have not obeyed his commandments.

Glorify your name, O Lord;
and deal with us according to your great 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!

Glorify be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Lord is righteous in all he has done to us,
for we have not obeyed his commandments.

Glorify your name, O Lord;
and deal with us according to your great mercy..

DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at www.stluth.org/lap

MEMORY VERSE

Psalm 130:1–2a

Alleluia. Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice! Alleluia.

HYMN OF THE WEEK: LSB #563 – Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness

CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism with Explanation (pages 23–25)

COLLECT OF THE WEEK

O Lord, grant to Your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve You with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish

MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 27:1-9

What does verse 1 mean?

Jesus is the light of the world. (John 8:12) With God's protection, we have nothing to fear.

Where does David find refuge (safety)? (verse 5)

In the shelter and cover of God's tent (tabernacle). What is God's tent or tabernacle? Christ Jesus. As the Apostle has written: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt (literally: tabernacled, tented) among us." (John 1:14a). All who seek refuge in Christ Jesus will receive shelter and refuge from the onslaughts of the enemy, and the victory over them which has been won in the death and resurrection of Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57; Psalm 27:6a).

TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Isaiah 55:1-9

What does God want us to purchase without money and without price? (verse 1)

Wine and milk, that is, the Gospel. The Gospel is the forgiveness of sins.

What do people pay for that does not satisfy? (verse 2)

That which people pay dearly for, yet which never truly satisfies is every kind of righteousness and all efforts and expenditures apart from grace. These involve great exertion and toil, yet avail nothing. They are empty. Luther: "It is a troublesome undertaking to acquire the matter by works." (Luther's Works, Vol. 17, pg. 251).

WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Matthew 22:1-14

Verse 2 states that the parable of the wedding feast may be compared to the kingdom of heaven. How so?

God is the King who prepared a wedding feast for His Son (Jesus) and bride to be (the Church). Those who are first invited refused to come. More messengers are sent. Of those invited, some make excuses not to come, while others treated the messengers shamefully and killed them. The King will not let His Feast go to waste as the Holy Ox, the Fattened Calf has been sacrificed — Christ was sacrificed to be the Feast as we eat His body and drink His blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. He sends out His servants (pastors) to invite all who were not initially invited, that is: everyone else, both good and bad. They were not worthy to eat because they were good or because they were bad, but rather because the King had prepared the Feast. And because the King had prepared the Feast, He sent out His messengers to declare that this Feast was for them — Jesus died on the cross for them. But a man refused to wear the wedding garments. He took for granted the King's hospitality because he wanted it on his own terms. Everything depends on being found in the wedding garment, robed in Christ (Romans 13:14a; Galatians 3:27) and clothed in His righteousness (Revelation 7:9f, 14d-e) at Holy Baptism. You have not entered God's Kingdom of your own free will, or by right. Nor do you remain in it by your rights, on your own terms, or by your good works. You are saved, you are righteous, you are

His child because the Kingdom of Heaven is like a King who arranged a marriage for His Son. The Lamb has been slain. He has been roasted in the fire of God's wrath, cooked on the spit of the Cross. God has prepared the Feast, God has given His Son, God has declared the invitation, and God has delivered this great gift to you. He gives you His righteousness as a garment. He has covered you at Holy Baptism with Christ as your spotless robe. You have received the royal Name and lineage, a peasant adopted as a prince and heir. He has brought you to His Feast to eat rich food, to be pardoned, to receive not only bread but heaven and eternal life.

Optional Reading & Discussion Question

Matthew 21:33-44

Explain the parable of the wicked vinedressers.

"Time after time God the Father sent His servants the prophets to call Israel to repentance, but they rejected His word and often killed the prophets. When God the Father sent His Son, the Word made flesh, who was the prophet greater than Moses, the Jews again rejected His preaching and would not repent. Jesus calls us to fall on Him and be broken that He may raise us up to life. The Son of Man has now come and all those who do not believe His words will be crushed under the Stone in judgment. The Father continues to send servants in the Church to proclaim repentance and forgiveness of sins to the nations. Though many reject these sons of the prophets, the Stone whom they preach is the real dividing line of judgment. (Karl F. Fabrizius, *Bible Stories for Daily Prayer: Matthew*, pg. 150)

THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read Ephesians 5:15-21

What does it mean to be filled with the Spirit? (verse 18)

To be filled up in/filled with the Spirit means to lead godly lives here in time, drowning the old man that the new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God worshiping Him, giving Him thanks and praise, and submitting to Him and to one another according to our stations and vocations.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 34 (page 67), question 58 (pages 84-85), question 162 (pages 153-154), and question 219 (pages 190-191)

CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with Explanation and Trinity XX?

Baptism "works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare."