THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church

October 15, 2023

10:00 a.m.

"The Mission of Beautiful Savior is to "Serve the Lord, extend the Gospel, and make Jesus alive in the community."



"Given To You & For You"

AS WE GATHER

Do you like a "pity party" or a "plenty party"? Our lessons this Sunday talk of God's plenty. The lesson from Isaiah celebrates God's triumph over death with an image of a feast for all folks. This is a truly beautiful passage, beginning with praise, continuing with an acknowledgement that God provides a refuge for the poor and needy, and ending with tears and disgrace being wiped away, and a call to be glad. In our Gospel reading, we have another tough parable from Jesus in Matthew's gospel about a wedding banquet and just who will celebrate with the king. The invitation is for everyone, the feast is spread, and the time is ripe. The only hitch is to remember to dress for the occasion in the cloak of grace. The weeping and gnashing of teeth and violent response of the first invitees make this parable a little tricky, but hey, the main idea deals with God's gracious invitation and our proper response. We have much to celebrate, share, and tell. Mercy pours like the finest wine, and grace fills the plates of all the hungry. It's a potluck on steroids, a feast for the faint, stone soup for the soul, and a delicacy for the downtrodden. This is no pity party, my friends. This is the real deal-plenty for all celebration of God's abundant love and grace.

PASTORAL WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Gracious, in love You open wide the doors and welcome us into Your presence - saints and sinners alike. You spread a table before us, filled with the richest fare - a feast of love and mercy for the body and soul. We come with joy to meet You here, to eat and drink at Your table, to taste and see Your goodness, to celebrate Your grace and mercy in our lives. May Your Spirit inspire our praise and thanksgiving, our prayers and petitions as we worship together in Your presence. In the name of Jesus Christ, our host and Lord. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN "In Thee There is Gladness" **LSB #818, St. 1 & 2**

- 1 In Thee is gladness Amid all sadness, Jesus, sunshine of my heart. By Thee are given The gifts of heaven, Thou the true Redeemer art. Our souls Thou wakest, Our bonds Thou breakest; Who trusts Thee surely Has built securely; He stands forever: Alleluia! Our hearts are pining To see Thy shining, Dying or living To Thee are cleaving; Naught can us sever: Alleluia!
- 2 Since He is ours, We fear no powers, Not of earth nor sin nor death. He sees and blesses In worst distresses; He can change them with a breath. Wherefore the story Tell of His glory With hearts and voices; All heav'n rejoices In Him forever: Alleluia! We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness, Love Him and praise Him And still shall raise Him Glad hymns forever: Alleluia!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Page 204

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- C who made heaven and earth.
- P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
- C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore, You are feared.
- P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.
- C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.
- P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C Amen.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT (Read responsively)

Isaiah 61:10; antiphon: Psalm 146:2

I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;

my soul shall exult in my God,

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;

he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. Glory 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. I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

Page 204

Page 204

KYRIE (Sing)

C Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Sing)

C To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing— Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry, Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high—

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High, In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You invite us to trust in You for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of Your judgment but by the greatness of Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 25:6–9

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,

of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

⁷And he will swallow up on this mountain

the covering that is cast over all peoples,

the veil that is spread over all nations.

⁸He will swallow up death forever;

and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,

and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

"Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.

This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4–13

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious 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, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had

no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"The New 23rd" -Ralph Carmichael

ALLELUIA AND VERSE (Sing)

- C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
- C These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- C Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:1–14

Page 205

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹Again 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, ³and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. ⁴Again 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.' ⁵But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. ⁷The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' ¹⁰And 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.

¹¹"But 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 Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED (Spoken)

Page 206

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life \dagger of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Listen God Is Calling" -**LSB # 833, St. 1-3**

Refrain: Leader: Listen,

All: listen, God is calling Through the Word inviting, Offering forgiveness, Comfort, and joy.

- Leader: Jesus gave His mandate:
 All: Share the good news
 Leader: That He came to save us
 All: And set us free. Refrain
- 2 Leader: Let none be forgotten
 All: Throughout the world.
 Leader: In the triune name of God
 - All: Go and baptize. Refrain
- 3 Leader: Help us to be faithful,
 All: Standing steadfast,
 Leader: Walking in Your precepts,
 All: Led by Your Word. Refrain

SERMON What Are You Wearing?

(Matt 22:1-14)

OFFERING MUSIC

"Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring" (WOV 759, St. 1-3)

- 1 Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place upon your table. We do not worship as we ought but only as we're able.
- 2 The vines were planted, seeds were sown. They grew in your good pleasure. What once was common, daily food becomes a holy treasure.

3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in pray'r Before you. Lord, by your grace now come to us, as humbly we Adore you.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Congregation response to petitions: Hear our Prayer)

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE (Stand)

Page 208

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (Sing)

Page 208

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER (Spoken)

 C 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD		Page 209
PAX DOMINI		Page 209
Ρ	The peace of the Lord be with you always.	

C Amen.

Page 209

AGNUS DEI (Sing)

C O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

1) "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness" LSB #636, St. 1, 6 & 8

- 1 Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render. Bless the One whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded; He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.
- 6 Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender, Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring: At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker Of this blessèd food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.
- 8 Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You. By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited; By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure. Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

2) "O Lord, We praise Thee" LSB #617, St. 1-3

 O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, In thanksgiving bow before Thee. Thou with Thy body and Thy blood didst nourish Our weak souls that they may flourish: O Lord, have mercy! May Thy body, Lord, born of Mary, That our sins and sorrows did carry, And Thy blood for us plead In all trial, fear, and need: O Lord, have mercy!

- 2 Thy holy body into death was given, Life to win for us in heaven. No greater love than this to Thee could bind us; May this feast thereof remind us! O Lord, have mercy! Lord, Thy kindness did so constrain Thee that Thy blood should bless and sustain me. All our debt Thou hast paid; Peace with God once more is made: O Lord, have mercy!
- 3 May God bestow on us His grace and favor That we follow Christ our Savior And live together here in love and union Nor despise this blest Communion! O Lord, have mercy! Let not Thy good Spirit forsake us; Grant that heav'nly-minded He make us; Give Thy Church, Lord, to see Days of peace and unity: O Lord, have mercy!

NUNC DIMITTIS (Sing)

Page 211

C O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one

Page 212

God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" LSB #710, St. 1-5
1 The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want; He makes me down to lie In pastures green; He leadeth me The quiet waters by.

- 2 My soul He doth restore again And me to walk doth make Within the paths of righteousness, E'en for His own name's sake.
- 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, Yet will I fear no ill; For Thou art with me, and Thy rod And staff me comfort still.
- 4 My table Thou hast furnished In presence of my foes; My head Thou dost with oil anoint, And my cup overflows.
- 5 Goodness and mercy all my life Shall surely follow me; And in God's house forevermore My dwelling place shall be.

POSTLUDE: "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" -Rick Founds

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us for Sunday Bible study on the book of Revelation. We will gather each Sunday at 8:30am to go through this oft-

Page 212

misunderstood book of the Bible, and the hope we have in Christ at the end.

Women's Weekly Bible Study our next meeting will be <u>Oct. 16th</u> at noon, we will study The Widow of Zarephath. All Beautiful Savior women and friends are welcome to attend!

Next Chosen Night: Saturday, Oct 21st at 5:00pm

Join us on Oct. 21st at 5pm for our next The Chosen Night. Also, we are still looking for dinner hosts to host our meal when we meet for "Chosen Nights." If interested, please sign up with Pastor Tim.

Brunch and Bibles: Next meeting October 28th at 12pm. Please let Kathryn Odle know if you will be attending. We will be meeting at Crackers& Co. Café on Elliot.

Beautiful Savior Fall Festival: October 29th 2023, 3-6pm. Join us and volunteer to be a part of our Annual Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat. This year we are adding a bounce house and hoping to have popcorn and maybe even cotton candy. We will also again have games, food, pumpkin painting, and hay rides. We will also be asking members to sign up to donate pumpkins for our pumpkin patch. If interested in volunteering, please sign up to do so in the narthex.

The LWML Zone rally will be Saturday, Nov. 4th, at Eternal Life Lutheran Church in Mesa, 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM. The speakers will be Rick and Laurie McClellan and Geoff Nedry of La Mesa Ministries. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. If you are interested in attending, please let Sandra Wardwell know by Saturday, Oct. 28th at s.wardwell@asuedu or 480-334-4176. This is a wonderful opportunity for learning about Lutheran Women in Mission and enjoying fellowship with LWMLers from our Zone churches! Planet Green recycle container is in the fellowship hall by the thermostats.

Fellowship Hour: If you would like to bring something in to share during fellowship, please sign your name on the date you would like. The schedule is on the fellowship board. Questions, talk to Pastor Tim.

Church Members and others who wish to "give electronically" can now do so by going to: easytithe.com/BSLCTempe. On the giving page, click on "Fund" and select the appropriate fund from the drop-down list. The funds are: General budget, LWML, Missions, La Mesa & Staff Continuing Education.

> BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH 1337 W. 11th St, Tempe, AZ 85281-5398 Office 480-967-2660 Second Line 480-967-2686 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m-12:30 p.m. WEB: <u>www.beautifulsaviortempe.org</u> Email for BSLC: <u>office@beautifulsaviortempe.org</u>

SERVING US AT WORSHIP TODAY: **Officiant Preacher:** Pastor Timothy Anderson Ellen Brown **Organist/Dir. of Music:** Song Leader: Debby Bergman **Special Music:** The Beautiful Savior Singers **Assisting Elder:** Skip McFadden Lector Reader: Derek Benson Greeter: Kathy Held Acolvte: TBA Altar: Bobbie Littou. Charlotte Grefe

<u>Visitors</u>, please sign (with a complete address) our **Guest Book** on the podium in the entryway before you leave and/or complete a

grey/cream "Worship Information" card found in the pew in front of you. <u>Members</u> are also encouraged to complete a "Worship Information" card (you can update address and phone number, request a pastoral visit)

Pastor Tim's Office Hours: Pastor Tim is available Monday through Thursday, 10am - 3pm as well as by appointment. Cell phone #480-536-2256.

WE CAN ASSIST THOSE UNABLE TO HEAR WELL...We have 3 cordless headsets available to use in the pews. Just let an usher know and they will be happy to bring you one.

Attendance for week: 10-8-23 Bible Study—7; Worship Service— 33; 10-9-23 Women's Bible Study—9; 10-12-23 Brunch & Bibles—;

Income report for 10-8-23: Loose Plate \$122; Weekly Envelopes \$2740; Designated Gifts \$;353 Other \$38.50; Total \$3253.

THIS WEEK AT BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR **October 15, Sunday** 8:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Music Rehearsal 10 AM The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost – w/Holy Communion (Also, being streamed on Facebook online) **October 16, Monday** 12 PM Women's Bible Study **5 PM Council Meeting October 19, Thursday** 4-7 PM La Mesa **October 20, Friday** Church & Offices Cleaned October 21, Saturday 5-6:30 PM The Chosen **October 22, Sunday**

10 AM The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost w/Holy Communion 11:30 AM After Worship – Congregation Voter's Meeting October 29, Sunday 3-6 PM Annual Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

Prayer List: We pray for strength, comfort and healing for: **Carol Hurley, Josh, Ken,** Dee's **husband, Sue Jimenez, Les Carlson, Jane Schutkowski, Kevin for successful surgery, Mason Miakiff, Connie Laird, Phyllis Schinke, Wendy Sievers, Glenn Brown, Bev Dase;**

Pastor Pope in hospice care;

Prayer for both families of Gloria, Char Peapenburg who passed away.

Amina Kruck very ill, Annalisa Durnan, Nicole McClain, Jan Buel, Alice & Randy, Beth Ruettinger, Warren & Cheryl, Brenda Frank, Jim Schutkowski – cancer treatments;

Doris Reith and Len Lacy - memory care;

Prayers for Libya, Ukraine, Israel and all nations & places dealing w/hardships. Maui for those still missing & help for those left without homes.

FOR AT HOME WORSHIPERS WHO MAY VIEW SERVICES ONLINE. INSTRUCTIONS ARE BELOW:

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE YOU CAN GO ONLINE & VIEW AT

1) Open a webpage browser (internet explorer, chrome, Firefox, etc.)

2) Type or paste the following link into your address bar:

www.facebook.com/BeautifulSaviorLutheranChurchTempe/

3) Option 1 - Scroll until you find a post that shows a "Live" feed titled for the Sunday service, or

4) Option 2 - Click on the "Videos" button on the left-hand sidebar (ignore anything asking you to sign up or sign in to Facebook)

5) Look for the video titled for the date of the Sunday service. Video stream will be live starting at or around 10am. If it does not show up, try refreshing the page. The video of the service will remain on the page if you would like to view it at a later time, or to replay it again at your discretion.

Lutheran Hour Broadcast - KFNX RADIO (1100) @ 10 AM

October 15 **''Help the World Rejoice''** Lutheran Hour Speaker: <u>Rev. Dr.</u> <u>Michael Zeigler</u>. A musical about a choir of nuns led by a lounge singer provides the setting for Dr. Michael Zeigler's message, based on Psalm 80.



HOLY COMMUNION. . .OUR UNDERSTANDING

It is the special joy of the baptized and instructed Christian to celebrate Christ in our very midst with the Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion). The Scripture clearly and carefully teaches that, in Holy Communion, the very Body and the very Blood of our Lord Jesus are really present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine. It also teaches that "A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord (acknowledging the Real Presence of Jesus with the elements) eats and drinks judgment on himself." (I Corinthians 11:28-29).

Communicants, then, are rightfully prepared and "worthy" when they:

- are truly penitent of their sins;
- even now embrace Jesus as their Savior and recognize His Real Presence in the bread and the wine; and
- seek to amend their sinful lives, with the assistance of this Meal and the power of the Holy Spirit.

If you have any further questions, please speak with the Pastor before the service.

Other notes on the distribution of Holy Communion:

- 1) Wine is the Biblical standard for all communicants. However, grape juice is in some glasses and available in the <u>center</u> of each tray for those who have an intolerance to alcohol.
- 2) The Blood of Christ, in, with and under the wine, is served in individual glasses.

3) Children and adults not instructed or confirmed are still encouraged to approach The Table to receive a blessing.