

Bible Study Lesson: Invited to the Feast

Theme: The Lord prepares a banquet of salvation, shepherds His people, clothes us in Christ's righteousness, and gives us His peace as we await the feast.

Scripture Focus: Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

Opening Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You are the Good Shepherd and the King who invites us to Your banquet. Open our hearts to hear Your Word, receive Your grace, and live in Your peace. Amen.

Opening Question:

Describe a meal that felt like a celebration, a refuge, or a gift. What made it life-giving?

Summary

These four readings fit together around the image of God's gracious feast. Isaiah promises a day when God will swallow up death, wipe away tears, and prepare a rich banquet for all peoples. Psalm 23 shows the Lord as Shepherd, leading His people to a table where the cup overflows. Matthew 22 reveals the King's wedding invitation—and the need for a wedding garment, which Lutherans understand as the righteousness of Christ received by faith, not our own works. Philippians 4 calls God's people to rejoice, pray with thanksgiving, pursue reconciliation, and receive the peace that guards hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Law and Gospel: The Law exposes our refusal, anxiety, quarreling, and self-righteousness. The Gospel announces that God invites us by grace, provides the garment, shepherds us through death's valley, and gives peace that surpasses understanding.

Key Points and Discussion Questions

1. Isaiah 25:1-9 — The Feast of Victory

Key Points:

- God is praised as refuge, strength, and salvation.
- God promises to swallow up death forever, wipe away tears, and remove disgrace.
- He prepares a feast of rich food for all peoples—universal and eschatological hope.
- This is fulfilled in Christ's death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:54).

Lutheran Lens: Salvation is God's action from beginning to end. We do not climb to God; He comes to us, destroys death, and invites us to His table.

Questions:

- Where do you need God to be your refuge right now?
- How does the promise "death is swallowed up" speak to grief, fear, or mortality?
- What does it mean that the feast is for "all peoples"?

2. Psalm 23 — The Shepherd's Table

Key Points:

- The Lord provides, leads, restores, and guides.
- Even in the valley of the shadow of death, the Shepherd's rod and staff comfort.
- God prepares a table in the presence of enemies; He anoints and overflows the cup.
- Goodness and mercy follow, and we dwell in the Lord's house forever.

Lutheran Lens: Christ is the Good Shepherd (John 10). We follow Him not by our own strength but because He leads and feeds us. The table and cup point us toward the Lord's Supper and the eternal banquet.

Questions:

- Which image from Psalm 23 speaks most strongly to you today?
- When have you experienced the Shepherd's rod and staff?
- How does the table and overflowing cup connect to Holy Communion?

3. Matthew 22:1-14 — The Wedding Invitation and the Garment

Key Points:

- A king prepares a wedding feast for his son and invites many.
- The invited guests refuse, mistreat servants, and are judged.
- The king then sends servants to gather all—good and bad.

- One man is found without a wedding garment and is cast out.
- “Many are called, but few are chosen.”

Lutheran Lens: The invitation is pure Gospel—God calls sinners into His feast. The wedding garment is not our own righteousness but Christ’s righteousness received by faith (Galatians 3:27; Isaiah 61:10). The warning is against presumption: being outwardly near the feast without trusting the King’s provision. “Many are called” means the external call goes out widely; “few are chosen” calls us to faith, not despair. Our assurance is in Christ, who clothes us.

Questions:

- Why do people refuse God’s invitation today?
- What is the wedding garment? Read Galatians 3:27 and Isaiah 61:10.
- How do we try to come to God on our own terms?
- How does this parable both comfort and warn us?

4. Philippians 4:1-9 — Peace at the Table

Key Points:

- Paul urges Euodia and Syntyche to agree in the Lord—reconciliation in the community.
- Rejoice in the Lord always; let gentleness be known; the Lord is near.
- Instead of anxiety, pray with thanksgiving; God’s peace guards hearts and minds.
- Think on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, praiseworthy.

Lutheran Lens: Peace is not a mood we manufacture; it is God’s gift in Christ. Prayer is a response to the near Lord, not a technique. Reconciliation flows from the Gospel we have received.

Questions:

- What anxiety do you need to bring to God in prayer this week?
- How does thanksgiving change the way we pray?
- Who needs reconciliation in your life or congregation?

- What fills your mind most? What would it look like to “think on these things”?
- How does the peace of God guard us?

Law and Gospel in This Study

Law: We refuse God’s invitation, trust our own righteousness, quarrel, worry, and fill our minds with what is not true or pure.

Gospel: God invites us to His feast, provides the wedding garment in Christ, shepherds us through death, forgives our sins, and gives peace that surpasses understanding.

Lutheran Application: We are saved by grace through faith in Christ. Good works, reconciliation, prayer, and holy living are fruit of that faith—not the cost of admission.

Application for This Week

- Pray the Philippians pattern: Rejoice. Bring your requests to God. Give thanks. Receive His peace.
- Reconcile: Take one step toward someone with whom you have conflict.
- Remember your Baptism: Daily remind yourself, “I am clothed with Christ.”
- Receive the Lord’s Supper: Come to the table as a foretaste of Isaiah’s feast.
- Guard your mind: Replace one input (media, conversation, worry) with what is true and lovely.
- Invite someone: Share the feast—invite a friend to church, small group, or a meal.

Closing Prayer

Good Shepherd, King of the feast, thank You for inviting us by grace. Clothe us in Christ’s righteousness, feed us with Your Word and Supper, and guard our hearts with Your peace. Reconcile us to one another and keep us steadfast until the day when death is swallowed up and we feast with You forever. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions:

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”