



**Christ  
Lutheran**  
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385  
(219) 462-6660 • [clcvalpo.org](http://clcvalpo.org)



Time after Pentecost  
August 31, 2025

## **We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.**

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure\* of faith, grace, and love.

*\* The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

### **ABOUT WORSHIP**

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

### **CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!**

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

### **WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP**

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

### **RESTROOMS**

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**Holy Communion** is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

*Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.*

**A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.**

*Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

### **PRELUDE**

*Prelude on THAXTED*

Callahan

### **WELCOME**

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider [filling out a Connection Card online](#) (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*





1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
 2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
 3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
 its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
 that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
 but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown—  
 and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
 though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:  
 we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
 for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
 to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
 and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
 and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

*Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.*  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God,  
you resist those who are proud  
and give grace to those who are humble.  
Give us the humility of your Son,  
that we may embody the generosity  
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

## CHILDREN'S TIME

*The assembly is seated as children come forward for a time together.*

## PSALM 81:1, 10-16

- <sup>1</sup> Sing with joy to God our strength  
and raise a loud shout to the God of Jacob.
- <sup>10</sup> **"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt.  
Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
- <sup>11</sup> Yet my people did not hear my voice,  
and Israel would not obey me.
- <sup>12</sup> **So I gave them over to the stubbornness of their hearts,  
to follow their own devices.**
- <sup>13</sup> Oh, that my people would listen to me,  
that Israel would walk in my ways!
- <sup>14</sup> **I would quickly subdue their enemies  
and turn my hand against their foes.**
- <sup>15</sup> Those who hate the LORD would cringe in fear,  
and their punishment would last forever.
- <sup>16</sup> **But I would feed you with the finest wheat  
and satisfy you with honey from the rock."**

## READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. <sup>3</sup> Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. <sup>5</sup> Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

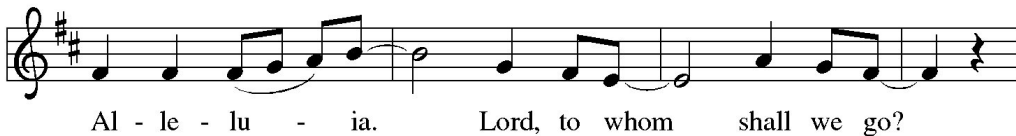
<sup>7</sup> Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>15</sup> Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. <sup>16</sup> Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.*



## **GOSPEL: Luke 14:1-14**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. <sup>2</sup> Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had edema. <sup>3</sup> And Jesus asked the experts in the law and Pharisees, "Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath or not?" <sup>4</sup> But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup> Then he said to them, "If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a Sabbath day?" <sup>6</sup> And they could not reply to this.

<sup>7</sup> When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. <sup>8</sup> "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, <sup>9</sup> and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup> But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. <sup>11</sup> For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

<sup>12</sup> He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.*

# HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #507

## *O God of Light*

*The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.*



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,  
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,  
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing  
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way  
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,  
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;  
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,  
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,  
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,  
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.  
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.  
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.  
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.



## APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

## PRAYERS

*Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations. Further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.*

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.  
*A brief silence.*

For the leaders of the church, we pray. Inspire deacons, pastors, Sunday school teachers, and Christian education directors with a passion for speaking the word of God. Equip all the baptized to share your word of grace. Accompany, encourage, and form seminarians, especially Kaitlyn. Bless her as she leaves us and shape her to be a blessing to your church in the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the leaders of cities, states, and nations, we pray, including our City Council and Mayor Jon, our Governor Eric, and our President Donald, and for the leaders of Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal. Guide these leaders to enact equitable laws and policies for all. On this Labor Day weekend, make us mindful of workers whose labor often goes unnoticed. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the lowly and those who are ignored, we pray. Provide for the needs of vulnerable communities, those who are unemployed, burdened by debt, or struggle to make ends meet. Accompany all who need reassurance of your loving presence. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks, remembering especially Nikolai Grundtvig. With the saints, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them, through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We invite those worshipping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

## **MEAL**

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ*

## **OFFERING**

*This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests.*

*If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at [clcvalpo.org/give](https://clcvalpo.org/give) or use [our CLC app](#) (download at [clcvalpo.org/app](https://clcvalpo.org/app)).*



## **OFFERTORY**

*Air*

Wesley

## OFFERING HYMN ELW #185 *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.*

The musical score is written on six staves in a single system. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:*

## SANCTUS

*(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## TABLE PRAYER

### LORD'S PRAYER

*Children: The Spirit makes us one. We pray as Jesus taught us:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

**Thanks be to God!**

## DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

**Amen (receive the bread)**

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**Amen (receive the cup)**

**In-person distribution:** When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -

way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



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.

**ELW #462    *Now We Join in Celebration***



- 1 Now we join in cel - e - bra - tion at our Sav - ior's in - vi - ta - tion,
- 2 Lord, as round this feast we gath - er, fill our hearts with ho - ly rap - ture!
- 3 Lord, we share in this com - mu - nion as one fam - 'ly of God's chil - dren,



dressed no more in spir - it som - ber, clothed in - stead in joy and won - der;  
For this bread and cup of bless - ing are for us the sure pos - sess - ing  
rec - on - ciled through you, our broth - er, one in you with God our Fa - ther.



for the Lord of all ex - is - tence, put - ting off di - vine tran - scen - dence,  
of your lov - ing deed on Cal - v'ry, of your liv - ing self, our vic - t'ry,  
Give us grace to live for oth - ers, serv - ing all, both friends and strang - ers,



stoops a - gain in love to meet us, with his ver - y life to feed us.  
pledge of your un - fail - ing pres - ence, fore - taste here of heav' - n - ly glad - ness.  
seek - ing jus - tice, love, and mer - cy till you come in fi - nal glo - ry.

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.*  
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Mothering God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.  
**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## **INVITATIONS**

*The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.*

## **BLESSING AND SENDING FOR KAITLYN**

### **BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you;  
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;  
and the life of the Spirit  
✠ bless you and give you peace.  
**Amen.**



SENDING HYMN ELW #769 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle  
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less  
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and  
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -  
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's  
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -  
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in  
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who  
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has  
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.  
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.  
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

*Children join the pastors to send us in mission.*

**DISMISSAL**

*Children: Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.*

**Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

*If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*

J.S. Bach

*As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.*

**Worship Leaders**

	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Reid Venstrom	Noah DeJesus
Lector	Tim Kratz	Sara Long
Prayer Assistant	Linda Mapes	Grace Safrin
Communion Assistants	Kathy Sutherland Darla Hernandez	Holly Knauff Sara Long
Ushers	Ben Lieske	
Sound/Light	Sam Venstrom	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	_____	
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Communion Baker	Candace Jacques	

## **Ecumenical Prayer Cycle**

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal.**

We are thankful for:

- the many ways in which these countries have moved beyond their colonial histories, especially the scars related to slave trade
- this area's distinctive music and cultural practices of storytelling (*griots*)
- economic and educational advances that have lifted some out of poverty
- promising transitions into democracy and changes in government leaders
- the persistent, faithful witness of churches in the midst of other faiths.

We pray for:

- those people in these societies who continue to live in abject poverty
- an end to policies, systems, and cultural practices that continue to exploit and marginalize some groups
- the fair election of more just government leaders who respect the rights of all people
- faith communities witnessing and working together for the common good.

## **COMMEMORATIONS**

**Week of August 31**

**September 2**

**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872**

Grundtvig was one of two principal Danish theologians of the nineteenth century; the other was Søren Kierkegaard. Grundtvig's ministry as a parish pastor had a difficult start. He was officially censured after his first sermon, though he did receive approval a year later to be ordained. He served with his father for two years but was unable to receive a call for seven years after that. In 1826 he was forced to resign after he attacked the notion that Christianity was merely a philosophical idea rather than God's revelation made known to us in Christ and through word and sacrament. This belief would be a hallmark of Grundtvig's writing. He spent his last thirty-three years as a chaplain at a home for elderly women. From his university days he was convinced that poetry spoke to the human spirit better than prose. He wrote more than a thousand hymns, including "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage" (ELW 509).

## Did You Get the Invitation?

Choosing the invitation design for an important event can be nerve-wracking. But deciding whom to invite? Whittling down the list of desired attendees can be even more difficult than choosing the invitation itself. So much stress.

In today's gospel reading, Jesus uses a dinner party as a teaching opportunity. In the ancient world, being invited to such an occasion was an honor, but figuring out where to sit once you arrived required a whole other stress-inducing decision. How embarrassing it would be to choose a place of prominence, only to discover you're not that important and have to move down the table. How disappointing it would be to invite someone to your party but not receive an invitation to their next gathering. (Is that why you invited them, anyway?) So many of these social games we continue to play.

You might say that Jesus takes the stress out of party-planning because he encourages us to take an honest and humble view of it all: the view from God's vantage point. In the realm of God, the last in the eyes of the world are first, and the first, last.

In the kingdom of God, roles are reversed, orders are disrupted, and convention is thrown out the window so all may know the grace, peace, and love of God. The divine Host throws amazing parties and desires everyone, especially those overlooked by the party-throwers and powerbrokers of the world, to have a chance to enjoy them.

Today's gospel reading reminds us that at God's table, everyone is invited and no one goes away empty. The party is freely offered and not a setting for social games. The table has no head and no foot but, rather, is a cloud of witnesses gathered around the life of the Crucified and Risen One.

The eucharist is the prime example of this feast. Did you get the invitation? Because you're invited!

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