

OCTOBER 15, 2017  
NINETEENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

# taking<sup>+</sup> faith home

*Our God invites everyone to the banquet.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 22:1-14	Parable of the wedding feast
Monday	Luke 14:15-24	Parable of the great banquet
Tuesday	Philippians 4:1-9	Words of encouragement
Wednesday	Esther 5:1-8, 7:1-10	Esther hosts a banquet
Thursday	Isaiah 25:1-9	The Lord will prepare a feast
Friday	Revelation 19:5-10	The wedding feast of the Lamb
Saturday	Psalm 23	The good shepherd
Sunday	Matthew 22:15-22	The question of paying taxes

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"Go out to the street corners and tell everyone you meet to come to the banquet." **Matthew 22:9 (CEV)**

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

Lord Jesus, thank you for inviting us to the feast of heaven. Help us to respond with a spirit of welcome and generosity to others. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Lord God, as we enjoy this earthly feast, prepare us for the feast of heaven. Thank you for all you give and all you do. Amen.

### A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with the peace of Jesus. May the Lord watch over your heart and your mind and keep you safe. (Philippians 4:7)



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## HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Come to the Feast*



## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home or small group:

- Talk about a special dinner you attended. What made it so memorable?
- In Psalm 23:5 God places the psalmist at a meal anointed with oil and full of joy in the presence of enemies. How does this image communicate the trust in God expressed in the psalm?
- Throughout the Bible, being invited to a banquet offers a beautiful experience of peace and joy. How can you experience peace and joy in your mealtimes today?

## DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Philippians 4:4-9 twice slowly.

Say aloud the word or phrase that stands out for you. Reflect on that word or phrase. Read the text again and wonder how the passage gives helpful guidance to your life. Read the text one final time and make a decision about how this passage will direct your thoughts and actions in the days ahead.

Close by praying Psalm 23 and the Lord's Prayer.

## SERVICE



Having a meal with others and being full are common biblical images of being satisfied and having the joy of the Lord. Commit to help at a food kitchen or invite others to your home for a meal. Include the "Mealtime Prayer" and other portions from this *Taking Faith Home*.

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Psalm 23 is one of the most well known parts of the Bible. Commit it to memory and pray it when you go to bed. As you go to sleep keep repeating verse 1, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."