

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17)
Year of the Lord 2019
Luke 14

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”
“Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to
Thee!”**

14 One Sabbath, when he went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ² And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³ And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, “Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?” ⁴ But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵ And he said to them, “Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?” ⁶ And they could not reply to these things.

⁷ Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸ “When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹ and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit in 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 table with you. ¹¹ For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

¹² He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ **But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,** ¹⁴ **and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”** ¹

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¹ [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 14:1–14). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

² [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Lk 12:49–54). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

In the Name of Jesus:

22 Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread drew near, which is called the Passover. ² And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to put him to death, for they feared the people.

³ Then Satan entered into Judas called Iscariot, who was of the number of the twelve. ⁴ He went away and conferred with the chief priests and officers how he might betray him to them. ⁵ And they were glad, and agreed to give him money. ⁶ So he consented and sought an opportunity to betray him to them in the absence of a crowd.

⁷ Then came the day of Unleavened Bread, on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. ⁸ So Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat it." ⁹ They said to him, "Where will you have us prepare it?" ¹⁰ He said to them, "Behold, when you have entered the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him into the house that he enters ¹¹ and tell the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹² And he will show you a large upper room furnished; prepare it there." ¹³ And they went and found it just as he had told them, and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁴ And when the hour came, he reclined at table, and the apostles with him. ¹⁵ And he said to them, "I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. ¹⁶ For I tell you I will not eat it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." ¹⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he said, "Take this, and divide it among yourselves. ¹⁸ For I tell you that from now on I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." ¹⁹ And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁰ And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. ²¹ But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. ²² For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!" ²³ And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this.

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority

over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

²⁸ “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ²⁹ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ³⁰ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

³¹ “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ³² but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ³³ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ³⁴ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.” ³

What He preached, He practiced.

A Kingdom was ‘assigned’ to Him! NOT taken, claimed, stolen.

And whom did HE invite? The betrayer; the denier; and the rest, who REFUSED to be pinned down by the Law—‘Are YOU the betrayer? It couldn’t be ME, could it?! And who, then—praise the Lord! The apostles are EXACTLY like all children of Adam!—‘A dispute rose among them as to which was the greatest!’

Whom does HE invite STILL to eat His Body and drink His Blood? The answer does NOT lie in the Law! In US! ‘Are YOU low enough? Have YOU humbled yourself enough, so HE can now do some raising with YOU?!’

We...are...drowning...in...temptation!

‘Father! Do not let our feet be led down THAT path!’

³ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 22:1–34). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

He invites to eat and drink His gifts—those who eat and drink His gifts! Let the LAW say whatever it wants about them!

For THIS is His Kingdom:

³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁴ And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. ³⁵ And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” ⁴

Jesus healed the man with edema; then got to work on thicker skin: guest and host, maneuvering and jostling and weighing and selecting—‘Savior, Christ and Lord’ indeed! SO OFF!—thinking the LAW was given form THEM to dance all the right steps! And so, confronted with the simplest of problems, they could not answer! ‘Day of rest: is HEALING allowed?’ Stumped the band!

My dear ones: Moses appeared to kill us all. His Law is His power!

Moses wrote at the end of Deuteronomy 29:

²⁹ “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.” ⁵

⁴ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Lk 23:33–38). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

⁵ [*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version*](#). (2016). (Dt 29:29). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

What glory! What an honor! In a world where, from least to greatest, no man knows his left hand from his right hand, HERE was a people to whom BELONGED the REVEALED THINGS!

OH! To OWN what COULD be rolling around SECRET and HIDDEN inside God's Brains somewhere, inaccessible; even summed up in Ten Tidy Tuitions! 'Thou shalt; thou shalt not!' And Israel OWNED what the Inscrutable One distilled as THE Heart-to-heart!

This is, of course, what the wiseacres of every age label the ABDICATION of 'thinking for ourselves!' Governing faith and life and love and works by the revealed will of God. No no! says the world! THINK...FOR...YOURSELF!

That works out JUST FINE, doesn't it?! Just leave the kindergarten unattended for 5, 10 minutes. They seem to be pretty 'on-the-ball!' THEY'LL figger it OUT!

Or leave to their own direction our lords and masters, our betters we impose on ourselves! Don't see any fuzzy thinking and acting going on in our capitols, do we? (I am NOT insulting 5 year old great ones by comparing them to Congressmen.)

Lord only KNOWS what new 'PROGRESS' we can add still in our land! To move beyond marriage mocked and infants mown down and money-slash-influence set up as our golden idol!

And all the lessons today—as with so much of this middle section of the Gospel according to Saint Luke in our readings this summer—it all boils down to

rule 1 There is a God.

rule 2. You ain't Him!

rule 3. Any questions, refer to rules 1 and 2.

What congressman has been more honored than the one given a copy of the Constitution of These United States! Don't despair! Mail your elected leaders a copy of the Constituting Laws of our land! Who knows?

What great one, 5 or 6, is more glorified than by his singing and dancing and instructing angel?!

And what people was like the people of OLD, to have their God so close to them, that they knew, for certain, His inmost thoughts?!
(Deuteronomy 4)

Lord, have mercy upon us!
Christ, have mercy upon us!
Lord, have mercy upon us!

Not enough for the Old Church, Old Israel.

A KING was what they needed—Moses and his Law they would squeeze into their day, eventually. Nothing NEW under the sun! WE too elect people we KNOW are making it up as they go along!

And what did the Lord do with their request for a 'Big Man,' a King? A wonder!

Calvary was on the way! And the manger; and the tomb; and the day the stone was rolled away and His Body wasn't THERE!

The Lord bent to their will. A King it is! But the KING of Israel will be KING ruling with the Law of Moses glued to his EYES!
(Deuteronomy 17)

And you own a long and hefty Bible with the sad story: best of kings—David—despised the Word of the Lord by adultery and murder and self-righteousness; his son, the prince of peace, was

blessed by the Lord—Forgive me, O Holy Spirit!—Solomon was blessed TOO MUCH! (Not God’s fault. Man makes gifts into gods.)

Who had the Law of Moses MORE glued to His eyes, than Mary’s Boy, Who set His face to go to Jerusalem—so that ONE of David’s heirs would rule as assigned?! You know where it got Him! ‘Glory! Honor! The most secret and hidden of ALL the Lord’s inmost heart!’

My dear ones: heading THERE, did Jesus go to Sabbath dinner to act like US?! To show off how smart HE is, compared to others? Wiser ‘n Solomon, I do declare! ‘I KNOW where everyone should be SEATED?! You DON’T!’ Ugh!

He went to dinner that day to do what was assigned to HIM!

To raise them; to glorify His fellow men; to honor us all: ‘Rise to ME! And TOGETHER, let’s send out the INVITES!’

A few years ago, a dear brother who will remain anonymous—let’s just call him ‘Charlie’—put a little bug in my ear that goes like this: ‘You are able to make the Gospel very complicated, pastor!’ (How DARE this brother tell the truth?!)

I simplify today: OUR happy portion, our assignment from the Lord.

Until the End, churches and pastors are saddened by fellow communicants disappearing from the Lord’s gifts. The Lord has a solution. YOU, my dear ones—YOU—REIGN with Him!

YOU know someone who is doing what we often wish to do on a Sunday: sleeping in! Find a way to rouse that one person a little

earlier. Tell him that if WE have been invited to eat His Body and drink His Blood, then the gate of heaven's kingdom is not only open! It is off the hinges!

Let the Lord sort out if your neighbor or friend or co-worker is wicked enough to need the healing He provides. All those directions about whom to invite to dinner and where to sit and all: they are directions for the Holy Communion, the Breaking of the Bread, the Eucharist, the Lord's Supper, given and received and remembered in the Name of Jesus. Amen.