

Joining the Feast

Year C, Fall
Proper 17—Reign of Christ Sunday



What you will find in *Joining the Feast*!

The Church Year Calendar

Describes the important church festivals and special days for the coming season. It provides theological reflections on their importance for the church's life and our own lives.

The Shape of the Season

Presents an overview of the focus scriptures for the weeks in the coming season. It discusses the biblical and theological significance of each of the passages.

Joining Worship and Learning: Making the Connections and Time with Children

A helpful feature in this section of *Joining the Feast* is the inclusion of the stories on the focus scriptures from the multi-age course. These stories can be used in the children's time during worship. Notice that some songs are used by several age levels but not in the same session. If you are interested in including a prayer, poetry, or artwork from an age level, speak with the leader in advance. May your congregational worship be enlivened by these suggestions to join worship and learning.

Joining Mission and Learning

Help the participants in *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* resources connect with existing service opportunities in your congregation. Review this list, and offer suggestions to the leaders. Give this chart to the chair of the mission or outreach committee so that the work of the committee can be strengthened through the church school.

Litanies and Prayers

A selection of poetic prayers and responsive readings that helps worship leaders connect the church's educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God.

Children's Bulletins

A fun activity page is provided weekly to give children a sense of belonging and help them feel welcome in the worship experience. These special children's bulletins connect their worship experience to the education themes.

Joining the Feast

We invite you to “Join the Feast”!

Our exciting *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* offers great opportunities for the local church. Pastors, educators, and participants can experience the wonder of God’s nourishing word to us. For church schools, for study groups, and for those preparing to teach or preach, the resources here will deepen and strengthen our faith. We have an amazing “feast” set before us! We desire and can find further understanding in our faith—of who God is and what God has done!

Joining the Feast helps pastors, educators, and worship leaders plan for education and worship. We want to assist in reflecting on how to incorporate scriptural and seasonal emphases across different parts of the church’s life.

Joining the Feast can be shared in education and worship committees. It enables important biblical themes to be integrated into the church’s study and worship experiences. A chart of suggestions for ways educational emphases can be used in worship is a feature of what follows here. Church school teachers can discuss these materials with one another to enhance education for all age levels in the church. Pastors who plan their lectionary preaching will find taking an overall look at this church season to be useful for their preparations. In all this we want to join teaching and preaching. We want the church’s educational and worship experiences to find fullness and blessing in the praise and service of God!

An important goal for pastors and educators in the church is to connect or join the church’s educational experience with the church’s worship experience. People of all ages who participate in church school study can find their Christian faith enhanced when the Scriptures read and proclaimed in worship reinforce and expand what they have been considering in their educational time. Education and worship can be mutually supportive in helping God’s word in Scripture come alive in the Sunday morning experience. Consideration of the same lectionary reading in preaching can deepen the insights gained in church school.

Pastors who want to build on what has been done in education welcome this *Feasting on the Word Curriculum* as a way to prepare congregational members for directions into which the sermon can lead. Those who participate in the education time will find the insights gained there enhanced by preaching that considers the same passage and brings God’s word to bear in fresh and nourishing ways. So as we “Join the Feast,” joining the church’s educational and worship dimensions can bring to life the richness of God’s word in Scripture.

Donald K. McKim



A Surprising Guest List

based on Luke 14:1, 7-14

Jesus was at the home of a leader of the Pharisees, men who studied God's word and God's laws. He watched guests come into the room. Some quickly chose the best seats, those close to the owner of the house. These seats were saved for special guests, and people didn't take them unless they were asked to sit there.

When everyone was seated, Jesus told this story:

“When you are invited to a special dinner, don’t think that you are better than the other guests and sit in the best seats. Someone who has a special invitation may come, and the host, the one who is giving the dinner, will say to you, ‘Please give this person your seat.’ You will feel embarrassed as you get up to find a new seat. Instead, when you are invited to a special dinner, find a seat that is not special at all. Then, the host may come over to you and say, ‘Come, sit closer to me!’ In this way, you will be honored rather than embarrassed. Remember the people who try to make them themselves important will be taken down, and the ones who do not think highly of themselves will be raised up.”

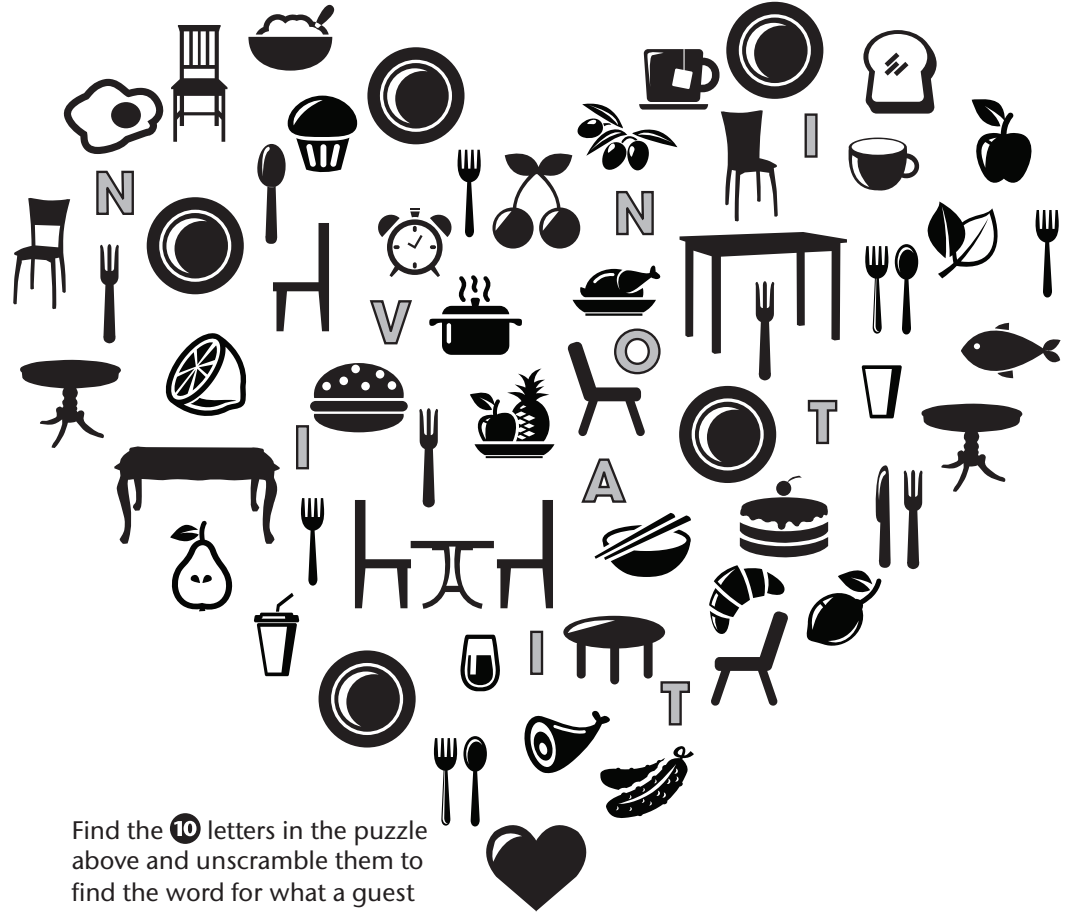
Then Jesus spoke to the man who had invited him to the dinner:

“When you give a special dinner, don’t just invite the people you know will invite you to their special dinners. Instead, invite people who are poor, people who cannot walk, and people who cannot see to your dinner. These people can’t invite you to dinners, but God will repay you when God’s kingdom comes on earth.”

What a different kind of dinner party Jesus described to the people!

In today's story, Jesus told the people about a special dinner.

Find the following items: **8** chairs, **6** tables, **3** spoons, **9** forks, **5** cups, **5** plates.



Find the **10** letters in the puzzle above and unscramble them to find the word for what a guest may receive before a party.

