

SERMON FOR OCTOBER 15, 2023

TEXT: ISAIAH 25: 6-9

THEME: CELEBRATE!

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined.

7 And he will swallow up on this mountain
the covering that is cast over all peoples,
the veil that is spread over all nations.

8 He will swallow up death forever;
and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces,
and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,
“Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us.
This is the LORD; we have waited for him;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

In the name of Jesus:

For many in Fairfield County the second week of October is a week of celebration, for we all know that the second week of October is traditionally Fair Week in our county. And many of us have celebrated this past week by either visiting or participating in our County Fair. When I visited the Fairgrounds at the end of September, it was unlike what we witnessed last week, as it was pretty quiet on the grounds. A tree company was busy trimming a couple of trees, but there was no traffic, no tents or rides or

carnival games setup. The Fairgrounds looked like it usually does on any other day of the week throughout the year.

But a transformation took place a few days before the opening of the Fair. Vendors set up booths and displays, carnival workers assembled the rides and games, county residents brought their entries to the Fairgrounds, and oh did I mention the food? All sorts of food was available, chicken noodles, fried foods, sausages, popcorn, and caramel apples. It was truly a feast of traditional fair food that many of the residents of our county not only looked forward to but also delighted in. Fair week is a week of celebration!

Isaiah in our text for today paints a beautiful picture of the celebration that awaits all who believe in Jesus. On that day the Lord Himself will host a banquet to celebrate what He has done for sinners! It will be a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. But what is the cause for such a celebration?

Isaiah says that on that day the Lord will swallow up the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. On that day He will swallow up death forever.

Death is the common denominator for every human being. Sad to say, it is what awaits each and every one of us, those of us who believe in Jesus, but it also awaits those who don't believe in Jesus and reject the mercy and grace of

God. Death awaits each and every person who is living today and who will ever live in the future. There is no escaping death. Why? Because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The wages of sin is death, physical and temporal death, and unless things change, eternal death and separation from God in Hell for eternity.

That isn't something to celebrate now, is it? Death is like a veil that has been spread over the entire earth. All of creation is dying because of the curse of sin. Plants and trees die, animals, birds and fish die, and each of us will die. There is no escaping death. It awaits every living thing on the planet. And the very planet earth is dying as well. For on the Last Day all will be destroyed.

But all hope is not lost. In fact, from death God brings about life and makes all things new. It is the reason why He sent His Son Jesus to be the Savior from sin, Satan, and death. In Jesus God's only Son not only tasted death by dying on the cross, He swallowed up death forever in His dying and rising again. Jesus tasted the ugliness and loneliness of death, He swallowed the fear and dread of death by becoming our sinless Substitute, dying the death we deserve on the cross, and then three days later rising again to newness of life. Jesus is the resurrection and the life, the way, the truth, and the Life, all who believe in Him, even though he die, will live again and be with Him when He comes again, bringing about a new heaven and new earth, where

there will be no more sin, no more death, no more tears and sadness. On that day the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth.

On that Day the people of God will celebrate! We who have trusted in Christ will say on that Day: “Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.” God will feast with His people, just as He did with His people of old. We read in Exodus that Moses, Nadab, Elihu and the seventy elders of Israel were called up to Mount Sinai to eat and celebrate in the very presence of the Lord.

God Himself provided the feast, just as Jesus provided the meal in the feeding of the five thousand and the feeding of the four thousand. And today Jesus invites you to this Feast, at His altar, where in, with, and under the bread and wine He gives to you Himself. His very body crucified on Calvary’s cross, and His very blood shed from that cross, for the full and complete forgiveness of all of your sins, for the strengthening of your faith, and to give you His peace and assurance of His blessing in the life He gives you to live. Here Jesus gives you a foretaste of that Feast to come, the marriage Feast of the Lamb in His kingdom as the Apostle John writes of in Revelation 19: “Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and

like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. **9** And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

And what a celebration that will be! Better than food at the Fairfield County Fair. It will be choicest of foods, the best of wines, an extravaganza of food and drink and celebration, for Jesus will be there celebrating all who were faithful unto death and have now received the crown of everlasting life.

Is it any wonder that Paul writes in his epistle: “Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice. For the Lord is at hand.” Jesus has made all things ready. The banquet of all banquets, the party of all parties, the celebration of all celebrations await you. For Jesus is the Maker and Provider of this great celebration, that awaits all who believe in Him.

Amen