



## We ask God's Blessing

### Opening Song: Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

*Christian Worship 376 - vs. 1, 5, 6*

**L** Dear friends, our heavenly Father is an inviting God. In his boundless goodness and mercy he invites us to come and be filled with his love and forgiveness. So let us not conceal our sins in the presence of God our heavenly Father, but confess them with a truthful and sincere heart. In this way we can rightly gather today and give thanks for the benefits we have received at his hands, offer the praise that is due to him, hear his holy word, and ask what is necessary for the body as well as the soul. Therefore, let us draw near to the throne of our gracious God and pray together:

**C** Merciful heavenly Father, at your invitation we come before you and confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

**L** Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Prayer of the Day

**L** Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## GOD'S WORD

### Reading: Romans 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup> I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: <sup>3</sup> "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? <sup>4</sup> And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." <sup>5</sup> So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup> And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

<sup>7</sup> What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened, <sup>8</sup> as it is written:

"God gave them a spirit of stupor,  
eyes that could not see  
and ears that could not hear,  
to this very day."

<sup>9</sup> And David says:

"May their table become a snare and a trap,  
a stumbling block and a retribution for them.

<sup>10</sup> May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see,  
and their backs be bent forever."

### Verse of the Day – *Isaiah 25:9b*

**L** Alleluia. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.

**C** Alleluia.

## Children's Message

### Song: **There Still Is Room**

*Christian Worship 565*

### Today's Message: *based on Matthew 22:1-14*

Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

<sup>4</sup>“Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

<sup>5</sup>“But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. <sup>6</sup>The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

<sup>8</sup>“Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. <sup>9</sup>So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ <sup>10</sup>So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup>He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

<sup>13</sup>“Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie his hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

<sup>14</sup>“For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

## Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

**C** 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## Blessing

**L** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Closing Song: **Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See**

*Christian Worship 219*