

The Essentials: The Church

Session 10: FEAST

Revelation 19:1-10

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Read: Revelation 19:1-10

Opening Thought

There is feasting and celebration that marks a multitude of occasions within the life of Israel and the church. It is an occasion that orders our lives and time, and even characterizes a primary response to God's saving work. In this passage we see the great feast to which all of the others point—the marriage supper of the lamb. It is the final destiny and gift of the church's perfect entrance into permanent life and blessedness with God in Christ.

Discussion:

1. When have you had a time of memorable time of celebration in your life, or name a feast day in the church calendar that you enjoy. What makes it memorable?
2. Think back on our very first figure, the church as spouse. What about this passage reiterates or resolves that story that we read from Genesis?
3. Look back on the figures that we have studied. Where do you see those emerging in our passage? Why would that matter?
4. The central feature in this passage is the glory and joy of worshipping God. While it is common to think of worship as singing or offering, think of other occasions where you revel in the glory of something. What would it look like to worship God in perfect peace?
5. Imagine with your group the experience of being in perfect fellowship with God and one another. What would it feel like to celebrate that reality (it is, in fact, your to come!)?

Check in and Closing Prayer

Revelation 19:1-10

After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
² for his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her immorality,
and has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

³ Once more they cried out,

“Hallelujah!

The smoke from her goes up forever and ever.”

⁴ And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” ⁵ And from the throne came a voice saying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great.”

⁶ 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.

⁷ 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;

⁸ 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 he said to me, “These are the true words of God.” ¹⁰ Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.