

Readings from Matthew chapter 22—December 26th, 2021-January 1st, 2022

1 And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, ‘Tell those who are invited, “See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.”’ 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.’ 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. 12 So he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?’ And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” 14 For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Sunday: Who is the king’s son, and what is being symbolized by his marriage?

Please pray with Kasumigaoka (Kobe, Japan) RPC for the preparation of Mrs. Hamada’s baptism: her husband faithfully served as a deacon in the congregation and went to be with the Lord earlier this year. **Pray** for Selma (Ala.) RPC and its need for a pastor.

Monday: What is being symbolized by the unwillingness of people to attend? Please thank God with Westminster, Colo., RPC for newly elected officers, and thank God for the many men in the congregation who are potential officer candidates for future elections. **Pray** for First (Durham, N.C.) RPC and its outreach efforts.

Tuesday: What is being symbolized in v. 7? Pray for our brothers and sisters in South Asia, that the Lord would sustain them even when they face oppression and persecution; **praise God** as He builds His church in difficult places. **Pray** for Birmingham (Ala.) RPC.

Wednesday: What is being symbolized in vv. 9-10? Give thanks with Belle Center, Ohio, RPC for men exploring whether Jesus might be calling them to be ruling elders; give thanks, too, that the eyes of the congregation seem to be expectantly on them. **Pray** for the work of the Synod Judicial Commission in its processing of judicial charges.

Thursday: What is the wedding garment that we need? Read Zechariah 3. Please pray for the marriages at Westminster, Colo., RPC, and pray for the single adults; pray that marriages will remain healthy and will reflect and remind the congregation of Christ’s love for His Church; and pray for the single adults to continue to serve in the church and to trust God’s plan for them. **Pray** for Lisbon (N.Y.) RPC.

Friday: What does v. 13 teach us about hell? Pray for Hope Community (Beaver Falls, Pa.) RPC as they continue to engage with nearby Geneva College students; **pray** that God would draw them near to Himself in grace and love. **Pray** for the RPC of

Bolivia.

Saturday: What is the distinction between those who are called and those who are chosen? Pray with North Hills (Pittsburgh, Pa.) RPC that God would strengthen and grow the Mandarin ministry led by Pastor Matthew Ma. **Pray** for our brothers and sisters in South Sudan. **Pray** for the service at ARPC tomorrow.

Atlanta

Reformed

Presbyterian

Church

The Lord’s Day
December 26, 2021

Meeting every week at
574 Western Avenue
(corner of Western and Walnut Street)
Atlanta, Georgia

Worship at 3:30 PM

Pastor Frank J. Smith, Ph.D., D.D.

franksmith76@gmail.com

https://atlanta-rpc.org

(770)241-3946

Proclaiming the Kingship of Jesus Christ

Welcome and Announcements

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions

The Call to Worship

Psalm 106:1

*The Invocation

*Psalm 106A

“O Praise the Lord! O Thank the Lord!”

Scripture Reading

Exodus 16:1-18

*Psalm 8A

“O Lord, Our Lord, in All the Earth”

Pastoral Prayer

*Psalm 135B

“Hallelujah! Praise the Lord’s Name!”

Scripture Text

Psalm 136

The Sermon

“Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part 5)

*Prayer

*Psalm 136A

“O Thank the Lord, For Good Is He”

*Benediction

*Psalm 134B

“Bless the Lord, All Servants of the Lord”

** Congregation will please stand.*

We are so glad that you could join us today! Please be sure to return next week and bring a friend.

Scripture Memory and Catechism Questions & Answers

“Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.”—Psalm 51:13. “Remove not the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.”—Proverbs 22:28.

Q. 53. Which is the third commandment? A. The third commandment is, Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Q. 95. To whom is baptism to be administered? A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

Q. 96. What is the Lord's supper? A. The Lord's supper is a sacrament, wherein, by giving and receiving bread and wine according to Christ's appointment, his death is showed forth; and the worthy receivers are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of his body and blood, with all his benefits, to their spiritual nourishment and growth in grace.

For your convenience, a tithe box is located at the back.

Psalm 136 “Twenty-Six Reasons for Thanksgiving” (Part V)

Theme: The psalmist gives us abundant reason for thanksgiving.

I. Three-fold Summons to Give Thanks (vv. 1-3)

II. God’s Work as Creator (vv. 4-9)

III. Deliverance from Egypt (vv. 10-15)

IV. Wilderness and Canaan (vv. 16-22)—killing of kings, giving an heritage

V. General Deliverance (vv. 23-24)

A. Who remembered us in our low estate

B. And has redeemed us from our enemies

VI. Universal Providence (v. 25)

A. Who gives food to all flesh

B. General providence is a token of the mercy God shows to His people

VII. Summation (v. 26)

A. O give thanks to the God of heaven

B. For His mercy [*chesed*] endures forever

Observations

A. God's mercy is specific/particular

B. Why are we given 26 reasons for thanksgiving?

C. Creation → History; Space → Space and Time → Eternity/heaven

Application

A. Have you been thankful for how God has blessed you this past year?

B. A thankful spirit is necessary if you're a Christian