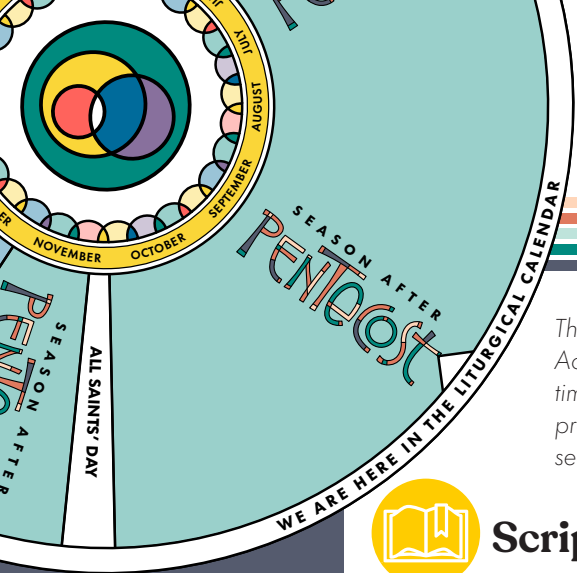


Luke 14:1, 7-14

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, Sunday between August 28 and September 3



The Season after Pentecost is the period between the Day of Pentecost and the First Sunday of Advent. This season makes up half of the calendar year, and its liturgical color is green. It is a time to focus on the life and growth of the Church in the world, empowered by the gift of the presence of the Holy Spirit. 12th-century mystic Hildegard von Bingen captured the essence of this season when she wrote, "The Holy Spirit is the greening power of God. Our task is to blossom."



Scripture

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."



Questions

- In this season after Pentecost, we learn about how Jesus calls us to live differently. What are the differences between the story Jesus tells and what the leaders are doing?
- Jesus' stories and lessons teach us how to live well together. How does his teaching of not taking the best seat for ourselves create more space for others?
- Jesus tells the host they should invite people who don't have much, are injured, and are often left out to the celebrations. Why might this be important?
- Can you think of a time where some people were invited and celebrated but not others? How do you think it felt for those who were left out or not celebrated?
- Jesus encourages the leaders in this story and us to welcome all, especially those often overlooked. What are some ways you can help people feel included and celebrated?

Look it Up!



Read about what happened in the small town of Gander, Newfoundland, Canada on September 11, 2001.

When their town was suddenly overwhelmed with thousands of strangers, everyone came together to welcome them and provide hospitality.

mini
REVOLUTIONS





Activity

Materials:

Safe throwing objects

Let's play a game called "More for You." Find a large space and divide the space into two sides. Then divide the group into two teams. You will need a dozen (or more, depending upon your group size) safe throwing objects (e.g. beach balls, ping pong balls, balloons, foam objects).

Distribute the beach balls (or other soft objects) among the groups. Set a timer for a couple of minutes and say, "go." Each side must throw the objects to the other team as fast as they can. When the timer runs out, everyone freezes. Count how many objects each team has. Whoever has the least balls on their side wins. Redistribute the objects and try again!

Variations:

- You can assign varying point values to each color if you have multiple colors.
- Add interference: Grown-ups can be obstacles in the game, batting down balls and making it more difficult to "share."

Alternate Activity

Materials:

Four chairs

Note cards with phrases below written on them

Let's play a game of "Have a seat!" Have you ever ridden a city bus before? If you are on a crowded city bus, who gets to sit down? Who needs to sit near the exit? Who needs to be able to hear the bus driver?

Line up your chairs in two rows of two seats, making four across. This is your city bus. But there are not enough seats for everyone. Who gets a seat? Where do they get to sit?

Give each person a note card or sticky note. They say:

- I am carrying a baby and a diaper bag
- I use a walker to move around
- I just finished a 12-hour shift at work
- I am a toddler with my grandmother / I am a grandmother with my grandchild

- I am vision impaired
- I am on my way to soccer practice
- I have six full grocery bags
- I am asleep on the bus—I was already here
- I am wearing high heels
- I am pregnant
- I am carrying a briefcase on my way to work
- I am crying while talking on the phone

How might you decide who gets to sit where? Work together to see if you can arrange a pleasant bus ride for everyone.



Micropractice

Next time you do not get your first choice of a seat, snack, or something, you may feel disappointed. That is okay. As you feel your disappointment, consider how you might feel grateful for something. Gratitude is a good partner to disappointment.



Download a graphic to share with your community and on social media. You can download it here: illstrtdm.in/minirevCPentecost12



Prayer

Ancient God, you were here before us, yet you make space for us to thrive. You sent Jesus to show us how to serve one another. Remind us that when we honor each other with the best things, we find great joy and contentment. Amen.

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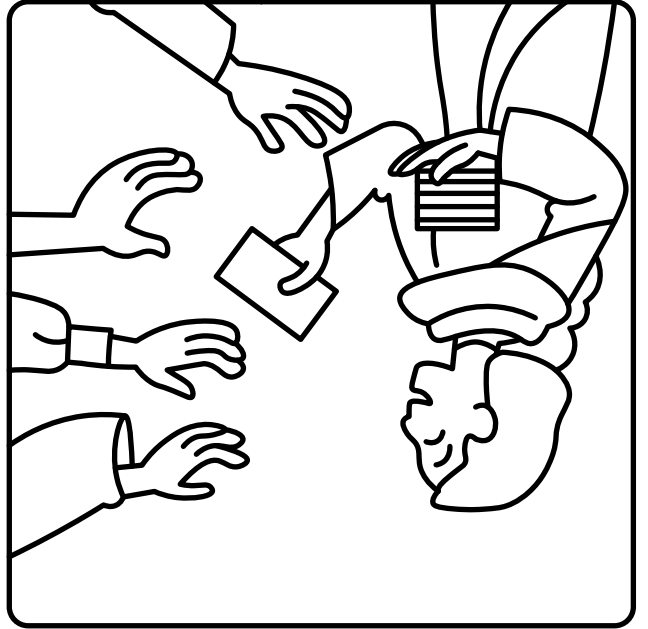
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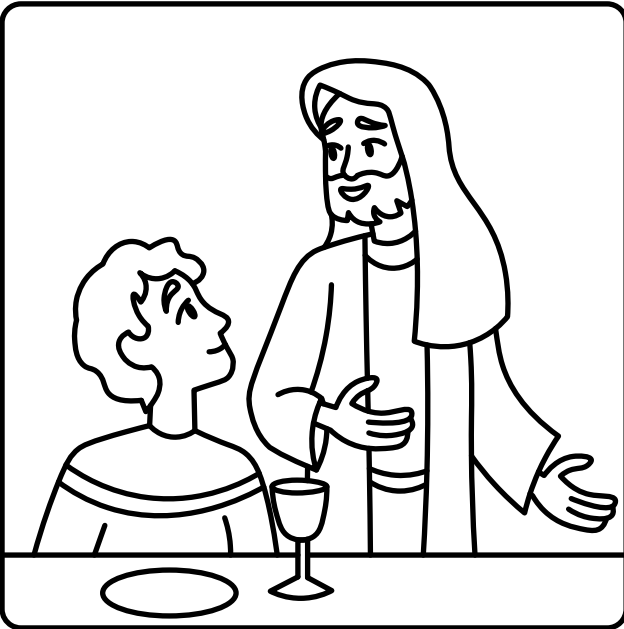
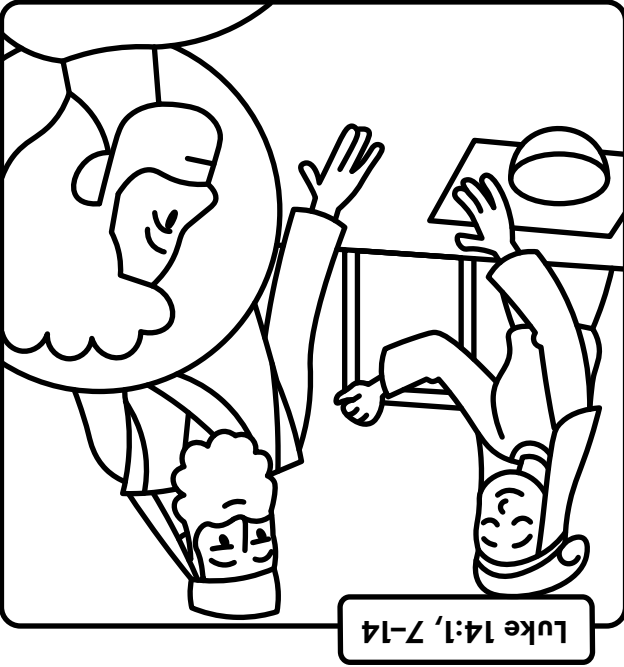
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4. Jesus also told the host, "When you throw a party, invite those who don't have much and aren't invited to many parties, who could never repay the favor, rather than just your friends and family, and you will be rewarded."



3. "In this way," Jesus said, "those who are humble will be lifted up and celebrated, and those who put themselves above others will be brought down and humbled."

1. Jesus went to a Sabbath meal at a Jewish leader's house, and the leaders were watching him closely. Jesus noticed the guests chose the best seats for themselves, so he began to teach them.



2. "When you're at a wedding party, don't give yourself the best seat, in case you lose it to someone else. Instead, choose the lesser seat for yourself, so the host may invite you to move to a better one."