

'But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. And he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

The mention of the 'King' and his 'Son's Wedding banquet' should make us sit up! This parable is about the end times, when God will gather all peoples to himself. All are invited, but sadly, many refuse the invitation – too busy, not interested... Where are we?

The unhappy fate of the guest, who isn't dressed for the occasion, is explained when it is remembered that in Jewish spiritual writings the wedding garment symbolises the good works with which the faithful clothe themselves. It is not good enough just to be a Christian, to belong to the Church... We must be continuously following Christ, open to his every word, active in good works.

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven.

Communion Antiphon

*The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.*

Prayer after Communion

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature.

Twenty-Eighth Sunday

Year A

11th October 2026

Happy Are Those Invited to the Wedding of the Lamb

Prior to today's Gospel reading, Jesus had triumphantly entered into Jerusalem with the crowds joyfully acclaiming: "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Ch21) more familiar with Palm Sunday. Jesus entered into Jerusalem to bring about God's reign; to inaugurate the Father's Kingdom through his death and resurrection. But he meets with rejection. It is in the light of this experience that Jesus goes on to tell the three parables that we have listened to over past Sundays: the parable of the two sons / parable of the wicked tenants and today, the parable of the wedding feast. There is joy in the message, that God's love is available and offered to all - all are invited! But it comes with a warning: We cannot just give God lip-service. We have to be clothed in love and good works.

Entrance Antiphon

*If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.*

Collect

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works.

ISAIAH 25: 6-10

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. And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death for ever; 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. 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.' For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

In the Scriptures, mountains – rising high into the skies - are often seen as sacred, holy places, where one meets God. In Isaiah (Ch2), the Prophet has a vision of all nations flowing to Mount Zion, where the Temple was erected, for all to worship the Lord. We hear about this mountain again in Chapter 11. It is the place where peace and reconciliation will be realised. And finally, in today's passage, we hear of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples at the end of time. As our psalm joyfully recounts: "*The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*" Let us embrace the Father's love in our lives.

PSALM: 23(22):1-3 - 6.

Response: *In the LORD'S own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.*

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me; he revives my soul.

He guides me along the right path, for the sake of his name. Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death, no evil would I fear, for you are with me. Your crook and your staff will give me comfort.

You have prepared a table before me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life. In the LORD's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

PHILIPPIANS 4: 12-14, 19-20

I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me. Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Today, we come to the end of Paul's Letter to the Philippians. Throughout this caring intimate Letter, Paul has been thanking the community in Philippi for the love and financial support that they have given him whilst in prison. He concludes by saying that Christ is his strength. As Christ emptied himself for us in the confidence of the Father's love, so to he has emptied himself for Christ, knowing that he is held in the Father's embrace. We must learn to do the same.

Alleluia, Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us. Alleluia!

MATTHEW 22: 1-10

Jesus again spoke to the chief priests and the elders of the people, in parables, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. Again he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast.' " But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, "The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find." And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.'