

# OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

11 OCTOBER 2020

wedding." But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants. "The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding." So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

When the king came in to look at the guests he noticed one man who was not wearing a wedding garment, and said to him, "How did you get in here, my friend, without a wedding garment?" And the man was silent. Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot and throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." For many are called, but few are chosen.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**  
*Shorter form, Mt 22: 1-10*

**HOMILY**  
**PROFESSION OF FAITH** APOSTLES' CREED  
*Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

**I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

*After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:*

**R. Blessed be God for ever.**  
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.  
**R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**  
P. 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. Through Christ our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**

**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**  
P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
P. Lift up your hearts.  
**R. We lift them up to the Lord.**  
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**R. It is right and just.**

**PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME**  
*After the Preface, we sing or say:*

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION**  
P. The mystery of faith.  
**All: When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

**COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...**  
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...  
**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**  
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...  
**R. Amen.**  
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.  
*All exchange a sign of peace.*

**LAMB OF GOD**  
**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**  
P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.  
**R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 33:11  
**The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**  
P. 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. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.  
**R. Amen.**

**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.  
**R. Amen.**  
P. Go in peace.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

**REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL**

**INVITED TO THE BANQUET OF LIFE**

The parable of the Wedding Banquet symbolises the story of salvation. The banquet represents God's intent for human beings, which is simply to have us as honoured guests at the banquet of life. The bridegroom is Jesus. The servants sent out to issue the invitations are, first, the Old Testament prophets and then Christian missionaries. The response of the king to those who rejected the invitations reflects early Christian belief that the fall of Jerusalem in 70 CE was retribution for failure to accept Jesus as Messiah. The new invitees from the highways and byways are Gentiles (non-Jews) who have joined the Church in large numbers.

We should not too readily identify the king in the parable with God. Jesus takes illustrations from life as it is, using aspects of the way people, including kings, behave to illustrate what he wants to convey.

The parable thus serves as an explanation of otherwise disturbing developments. Israel's *No* to the Gospel and the fact that the Church includes bad members as well as good has all been foreseen by the Lord. What about the poor wretch caught out for not wearing a wedding garment? The wedding garment symbolises transformation of life. You don't have to be good to get into the community of the Kingdom: the invitation to the banquet is a great net of grace enclosing all, good and bad alike. But, *once within*, we must allow the grace we have received to transform us and make us worthy of final salvation, God's invitation to the banquet of life.

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COME TO THE BANQUET. Our God invites all people to the banquet of the kingdom, a banquet characterised by joy, integrity, and true peace. Sometimes, however, we decline this invitation preferring the lesser banquets that we know. May God enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called.

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Ps 129:3-4  
**If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.**

**GREETING**  
P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**R. Amen.**  
P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**

**PENITENTIAL ACT**  
P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.  
P. Lord Jesus, you have revealed yourself as the way to the Father: Lord, have mercy.  
**R. Lord, have mercy.**  
P. You have poured out on your people the Spirit of truth: Christ, have mercy.  
**R. Christ, have mercy.**  
P. You are the Good Shepherd, leading us to eternal life: Lord, have mercy.  
**R. Lord, have mercy.**  
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.  
**R. Amen.**

**GLORIA**  
**Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.**

**COLLECT**  
P. 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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity

of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
**R. Amen.**

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING** Isa 25:6-10  
A reading from the prophet Isaiah  
*The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.*

On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines. On this mountain he will remove the mourning veil covering all peoples, and the shroud enwrapping all nations, he will destroy Death for ever. The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek; he will take away his people's shame everywhere on earth, for the Lord has said so. That day, it will be said: See, this is our God in whom we hoped for salvation; the Lord is the one in whom we hoped. We exult and we rejoice that he has saved us; for the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** Ps 22. R. v. 6

**R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**  
1. 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, / to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**  
2. He guides me along the right path; / he is true to his name. / If I should walk in the valley of darkness / no evil would I fear. / You are there with your crook and your staff; / with these you give me comfort. **R.**  
3. You have prepared a banquet for me / in the sight of my foes. / My head you have anointed with oil; / my cup is overflowing. **R.**  
4. Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me / all the days of my life. / In the Lord's own house shall I dwell / for ever and ever. **R.**



**SECOND READING** Phil 4:12-14, 19-20  
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians  
*I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.*

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** cf. Eph 1:17, 18  
**Alleluia, alleluia! / May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ / enlighten the eyes of our heart, / that we might see how great is the hope / to which we are called. / Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Mt 22:1-14

P. The Lord be with you.  
**R. And with your spirit.**  
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.  
**R. Glory to you, O Lord.**  
*Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.*  
Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son's wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. "Tell those who have been invited" he said "that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the