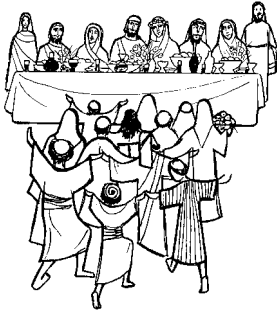


THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME



TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 11th October 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the “leader” parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

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

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: You are invited to a banquet! It is the banquet of heaven, where Jesus, the Good Shepherd, welcomes all to rejoice in the Kingdom of heaven. We must make sure we are responding to his invitation, by the way we live, by the “garment of righteousness” we clothe ourselves in. To begin this Sunday, let’s praise God and ask for mercy, saying:

Gloria

A: 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 Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray. 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, God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading *Matthew 22:1-14*

Jesus began to speak to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables: ‘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 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.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

The message of this parable is similar to last week: who is welcome in the Kingdom of God? Last week the image was the vineyard, this week the wedding feast, but the idea is the same: some self-righteous people who think their place is guaranteed will be disappointed, and the invitation will be extended to those who are excluded. Jesus turns things upside down – the invited are unworthy, so the unworthy are invited! This is addressed to the “holier than thou” chief priests and elders, but the message resonates to our time: as Pope Francis keeps reminding us, the Church is not a “club” or a “clique”. We must ensure that the invitation to the Kingdom of God is universal, that no one is excluded, that every human being knows they are welcome at God’s feast. It is not a free pass, though: once we come into the Kingdom we must live the life of the Kingdom – we must wear the “wedding garment” of goodness, integrity, faith and justice.

For our Younger Friends

Have you ever been left out of a party? Perhaps when the grown ups are having friends round and you get sent off to bed? Not a good feeling, is it?! Jesus wants everyone

to be at his party, he wants no one to be left out. But to be at Jesus' party we have to say "yes" to his invite! Saying "yes" to Jesus is all about how we live, what we say and think and do. Why not design an "Invitation to the Kingdom of God" – but include some instruction on how people can say "yes" to Jesus!

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

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.

Intercessions

L: Let us think of our prayers for this Sunday.

L: Friday was the CAFOD Harvest Fast Day: let us pray for the hungry and needy of our world, and for support for the charities that help them. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let's pray for our families and friends, especially older people who are struggling with isolation at this time: we pray especially for residents of Care and Nursing Homes. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for people searching for meaning and purpose in life; that they may hear Jesus' invitation to his wedding feast. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and

your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

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

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful so that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Before Spiritual Communion

L: Almighty Father, by his birth Jesus your Son brought renewal to humanity's fallen state, and by his suffering, cancelled out our sins; by his rising from the dead he has opened the way to eternal life, and by ascending to you, O Father, he has unlocked the gates of heaven. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

L: 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.

A: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

L: 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.

A: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

L: You have prepared a banquet for me

in the sight of my foes.

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

A: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

L: 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.

A: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray. We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the spiritual reception of 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.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!