

Cycle A – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Oct. 11, 2026

"Invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet..."

OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 23)

Leader: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

**All: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures.**

Leader: He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil, for you are with me.

**All: You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.
Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

The notion of banquet is long associated with God's final victory. The normal concerns for food and provisions that often cause fear are removed. With sufficient food, life is assured and a banquet becomes a sign of unending life. This passage portrays the royal enthronement of God on Mount Zion. Having conquered pagan powers, earthly terrors, and Israel's enemies, God reigns over all nations. God will even conquer death itself.

1. Why is this passage so comforting and why was such comfort necessary at that time?
2. Do we ever view life as a rich feast? What do we imagine the coming feast of heaven will be like?
3. How did Jesus fulfill the promise of these words? What further fulfillment awaits us?

Second Reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

This reading is a thank you note and should be read that way. Saint Paul tells the Philippians that despite hardships they should trust that God will supply their needs especially "glorious riches in Christ Jesus."

1. What does this letter tell us about Paul and his own attitude toward his work?
2. What does it suggest our own attitudes should be?
3. How many occasions should prompt a "thank you note," even when that is not called for as a rule? To whom have we ever been indebted in our life of grace?

Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14

This parable can often be difficult to extrapolate a singular particular theme from it. In the time and era of Jesus' living ministry society was very compartmentalized and yet the king who represents the heavenly king is inviting those of distinctly different classes of society to the wedding banquet which represents the heavenly banquet that all are invited to if they respond to the invitation.

1. How do we respond to God's invitation to Jesus' wedding?
2. We are to be robed in righteousness (goodness). How do we prepare?
3. Would we have preferred a different ending to this parable? What "ending" would we have chosen, and why?
4. How do we react when we see those deemed as unfit being blessed by God.

LIVING THE WORD

What is God's challenge for me/us this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: We pray for those who decide not to respond to Christ's invitation to the heavenly banquet that they draw closer to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and God's deep abiding mercy.

(Invite other intentions, then end with "Our Father ...")

CLOSING PRAYER

Leader: O God, help us to receive your daily messengers graciously,

All: And follow them happily to the banquet you spread before us all.

Leader: Blessed be you, our God. Each Sunday you invite us to the holiday banquet of the Covenant.

All: May the Eucharist bring us nearer to the eternal feast that you prepare for us near to our brother Jesus and in the joy of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Leader: Let us share with one another a sign of peace.