

## LECTIO DIVINA OF THE 28TH SUNDAY - A (Oct 11/2020)

**Opening prayer:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Heavenly Father, Thank you for this day and the blessing fo being together with our spiritual family to read, reflect, review and respond to your life giving words. We acknowledge that without you in our heart our life is meaningless. You love everyone equally and makes your sun rise on the bad and the good and cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust and thus you call us to partake in your perfect nature by treating our brothers and sisters with no prejudice, hatred and division. Open our hearts and minds so that we see Your reflection in the face of every person who walks in our life. Help us to forge bonds of compassion, dignity, and respect with every person. Guide us to fully grasp that difference never lessen a person's need for love, friendship, belonging, respect, and for the opportunity to work, contribute, and lead. Let prejudice, stigma, fear, and presumptions never interfere with our ceaseless efforts to assure that each and every person is able to feel the embrace of you, the family and the community.

**First Reading: A reading from the book of Prophet Isaiah 25:6-10:** On this mountain the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the Lord for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain.

The word of the Lord / Thanks be to God

**Commentary:** God reveals his mind through Isaiah's marvelous prophecy that "all peoples" - Gentiles and Jews together will participate at God's messianic feast joyfully. God intended his saving message to go out to the whole world , not just to the Jews. During the feast, God will end death forever. The people who participate in this great feast will be these who have been living by faith.

**Responsorial Psalm 23 I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. **R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

He guides me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil; for you are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage. **R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for years to come. **R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.**

**Commentary:** Psalm 23 has been called the “Pearl of the Psalms”. It probably is one of the most quoted Scripture in the Bible, written by David who describes the Lord as a Shepherd because he had spent his early years caring for sheep (1 Sam 16:10-11). Sheep are completely dependent upon the shepherd for provision, guidance and protection. The believers will dwell with God. God the perfect shepherd promises to guide and protect us through life to bring us into his house forever.

**Second Reading: A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20:**

Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress. My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord/ Thanks be to God.

**Commentary:** Are we content in any circumstance we face? Paul knew how to be content whether he had plenty or whether he was in need. The secret was drawing on Christ' power for strength. Do we have great needs? Are we discontented because we don't have what we want? We need to learn to rely on God's promises and Christ' power to help us be content. He will supply all our needs but he knows what is best for us and provide accordingly.

**Gospel Reading: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 22:1-14**

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants,

saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen." The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ/ Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

**Meditation:** In Jewish society, the wedding banquet was one of the most joyous occasions. In the parable of the wedding feast, Jesus compares heaven to a wedding banquet that a king had prepared for his son. Many people had been invited, but when the time for the banquet came and the table was set, the invitees refused to come. In fact, the king's servants who brought the joyful message were mistreated and even killed. The king, enraged at the response of the invitees, sent his army to avenge the death of his servants. He then sent invitations to anyone his servants could find, with the result that the wedding hall was filled. During the feast the king noticed a man "who was not wearing wedding clothes". When asked how he came to be there without the furnished attire, the man had no answer and was promptly ejected from the feast "outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth". Jesus then ends the parable with this statement: "For many are invited, but few are chosen". The king is God the Father, and the son who is being honored at the banquet is Jesus Christ, who "came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (John 1:11). Israel held the invitation to the kingdom, but when the time actually came for the kingdom to appear, they refused to believe it. Many prophets, including John the Baptist, had been murdered. It is not because the invited guests could not come to the wedding feast, but that they would not come. Everyone had an excuse. How tragic, and how indicative of human nature, to be offered the blessings of God and to refuse them because of the draw of mundane things!

The wedding invitation is extended to anyone and everyone, total strangers, both good and bad. This refers to the gospel being taken to the Gentiles. This portion of the parable is a foreshadowing of the Jews' rejection of the gospel in Acts 13. Paul and Barnabas were in Pisidian Antioch, where the Jewish

leaders strongly opposed them. The apostle's words echo the king's estimation: "We had to speak the word of God to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles" (Acts 13:46). The gospel message, Jesus taught, would be made available to everyone.

The man who was caught wearing his old clothing learned what an offense it was as he was removed from the celebration. Just as the king provided wedding garments for his guests, God provides salvation for mankind. Our wedding garment is the righteousness of Christ, and unless we have it, we will miss the wedding feast. Christ concludes the parable with the sad fact that "many are invited, but few are chosen." In other words, many people hear the call of God, but only a few heed it. To summarize the point of the Parable of the Wedding Feast, God sent His Son into the world, and the very people who should have celebrated His coming rejected Him, bringing judgment upon themselves. As a result, the kingdom of heaven was opened up to anyone who will set aside his own righteousness and by faith accept the righteousness God provides in Christ. Those who spurn the gift of salvation and cling instead to their own "good" works will spend eternity in hell.

The Parable of the Wedding Feast is an invitation to every one of us to belong to Him eternally in Heaven and that eternal life starts already here on earth, being obedient to his teachings in the teaching authority of the Church and participating in the sacramental life of the church, the means of our salvation. This parable is also a warning to us, to make sure we are relying on God's provision of salvation, not on our own good works or religious service. May our lives be living proof that God loves everyone and has invited them to a banqueting table of true love, true joy, true peace, and true purpose. Let us clothe ourselves with Jesus' grace and unfailing love toward mankind. Like the servants in this parable let us invite many lonely and lost people around us—anyone we want to enter the kingdom of God with us.

**Concluding prayer:** God our Loving Father, Thank you for this day and speaking to us through your wisdom in the Holy Scripture. From Adam you made every nation of mankind to live on all the earth. You are a God of no partiality and You do not regard a person's nationality but desire to save everyone. Your Word says that there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for You are all one in Christ Jesus. We pray that we remember this when we encounter different people. We pray that You speak to our hearts so that we can remember that no one is better than another because of appearance or any other earthly attribute. We pray that we respect the diversity of mankind and embrace that we are all one as your children. Amen. (Hail Mary/Blessing)