



Gospel Mt 22:1-14

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 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 dispatched 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 onto 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.'

Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The servants of the king went out and gathered in 'all whom they found, good and evil alike'. They respond, drawn by the attractive prospect of sharing in the life of the Lord of the Feast, and they are welcomed, whether good or evil.

What about the king's (God's) question to the wedding guest? 'My friend, how come you are here without a wedding garment?' The guest might have replied: 'Because of dire poverty', or 'Lack of time', but the story goes on, 'But the guest was silent'. The guest was tongue-tied because he was caught out having decided not to enter into the spirit of the occasion.

That is why, at every baptism, we look for a signal of commitment to respond to the spirit of the occasion, by the wearing of a white garment. This anticipates the later receiving of Holy Communion which is a foretaste of the Feast of Heaven.

We could pause for a moment at this Mass to enter into the Spirit of the occasion wearing the garment of our baptismal commitment.

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The Living Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

11 October 2020

First Reading Is 25:6-10

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.

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

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.

Gospel Acclamation See 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!**