

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

*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 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.

*Shorter form, Mt 22: 1-10*

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# Breaking Open the Word



# THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

15 OCTOBER 2023

## CALLED TO HOPE

The readings for today are both comforting and unsettling. Isaiah's vision of the whole human family gathered in peace on the mountain of the Lord is one that all people of goodwill hope will one day come to pass. The Gospel, on the other hand, introduces a discordant and unsettling note as Jesus continues to confront his opponents with the disturbing parable of the wedding feast. It seems hardly fair that a poor man dragged off the street to make up the numbers at a wedding feast should then be cast out because he was improperly dressed. If Matthew is compared with Luke 14:15-24 it quickly becomes apparent that Matthew has combined two parables of Jesus regarding weddings. One spoke of guests who were invited but refused, the other spoke of someone who came to a wedding improperly dressed. Since Matthew's community comprised both Jewish and Gentile Christians it seems his aim was to make sure both groups avoided complacency and taking God's gracious invitation for granted.

As Paul reflects on his experience as an apostle, one thing he learned was that there was no room for complacency. The ministry he had received to preach the gospel was one which entailed many risks, poverty and plenty, acceptance and rejection. In order to preach the gospel, he worked to support himself but was often assisted by communities that he had established. As he nears the conclusion of the letter to the community in Philippi, he thanks them for their generosity and support.

Christopher Monaghan CP

## 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.

## 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.

## 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!**