

OCTOBER 15, 2017



# TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 25:6-10A

PSALM 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6

PHILIPPIANS 4:12-14, 19-20

MATTHEW 22:1-14 OR 22:1-10

## REFLECTION

This Sunday's readings speak a great deal about abundance. We have many gifts in our lives that are easy to take for granted. But the blessing that is most abundant, that never runs out, is God's grace. We believe that grace is freely offered by God, and that all that stands between us and receiving that infinite grace is our willingness to accept it. In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable of the Kingdom of Heaven. He likens the Kingdom to a great wedding feast that has been prepared. When the invited guests refuse to come to the feast, the king who is holding the banquet sends out his servants to invite "whomever you find" (v. 9). Sounds a little crazy, doesn't it? Imagine that someone is hosting an expensive dinner and then sends people out on the street to invite whomever they find. How would you respond if you were suddenly invited to such an event? Imagine having the opportunity to attend this grand feast at no cost to yourself, and all you need is to accept that invitation. God's grace is the same way—it is freely offered, and it is up to us to enter into the feast.

## ACTION

How would you prepare as a guest for a wedding or a feast? Often we bring gifts when we are invited to such an event. Think about what gifts you can offer to God. Here is a creative challenge for you: What are you good at? What is your greatest gift or talent? Now, how could you find a way to offer that talent back to the One who gave it to you? How can you use it to glorify God? Our giving is not always about directly serving the Church—it is in our attitude and our nurturing of the gifts we have been given. In order to be good guests for this great celebration that God has prepared, we should do whatever we can to be grateful for God's blessings in our lives, and work to use our gifts and abundances for one another.

## JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- What gifts in your life are you most grateful for? What other "abundances" have you been blessed with? What do you do with those gifts? How might you better offer those gifts to God and to others?
- What kind of "guest" are you in your day-to-day life? Do you act the way that God expects you to? What is one way that you could better prepare yourself for God's feast?