

Cycle A 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1, Is 25:6-10a

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.

Responsorial Psalm, Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R. (6cd) 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.

Reading II, Phil 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.

Gospel, Mt 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."

To be honest, it took me a while to grasp and embrace today's readings. At first, the Gospel parable seemed to say the Kingdom of Heaven was in the future and wasn't for everyone, but I know that God loves us all unconditionally...right now...just the way we are. His love and mercy are for all mankind, not a just chosen few sometime in the future...He'll never give up on us and eventually even the most stubborn will give in to His relentless love! But, it's hard to understand when we are overwhelmed, assaulted by all the problems consuming our world...it is challenging for us to see that the answer is here...right before us.

So I want to try something different today. I ask you to take a comfortable prayer position... maybe bowing your head or closing your eyes while we reflect on today's readings. My homily today is a prayer for all humanity because we are all brothers and sisters as the children of God. So, for our families, for our communities, for our country and for all people around the world, ✠Let us pray in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

“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...”

Lord Jesus we do love you and we praise you. We come to you today seeking answers and in fact we pray for miracles. The world is in a year of record-breaking rising temperatures, wildfires and flooding... in a year of war atrocities in Ukraine, but also in over 30 other areas of the world like Haiti, and now Israel and Gaza...in a year of innocents being displaced by terrorism and war, forced to leave their homes and countries...by failed immigration policies dumping people into cities which are running out of resources.... we are in a year of discord within in our government and our church. When will it end? What's next to go wrong? How can we commit much of anything beyond caring for our families? Dear Jesus what should we do?

“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.”

Lord, you know we are committed to God’s work, but where do we start? We are trying to listen to our trusted family, friends, leaders...and you. Help us to step out of the “muck” of our lives...out of our comfort zones, our bubbles, to take some action to support others, to be inspired by others, and to improve the world one act and one day at a time.

I hear about my grandson’s soccer being canceled due to days of wildfire smoke. And I listen to my daughter-in-law, who works for New Belgium Brewing, explain the challenges of climate change on sourcing all the ingredients of their beer...water, hops, grains, yeast, bottles, cans...they are all impacted! I listen to Pope Francis in his new 11-page apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*, which means ("Praise God"). The Pope addresses the letter to all people of goodwill and calls on us for concrete individual actions in response to the climate crisis. The letter's goal, writes the pope, is "*to express bluntly that this is no longer a secondary or ideological question, but a drama that harms us all.*" He says that "*above all*" urgent political decisions must be made at both the national and international levels to stave off impending environmental disasters. And in the final line of the document, the pope offers a specific warning to people of faith: "*Praise God*" is the title of this letter," writes Francis. "*For when human beings claim to take God's place, they become their own worst enemies.*"

“...God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

Lord we know that your mother Mary and father Joseph taught you how to pray....and you always prayed to God your father....countless times we hear your prayers, right up to your death. Some of my earliest memories are of being tucked into bed praying with my mother: “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep...” For all of us, Lord, in one form or another, praying to you has been an undeniable part of our lives. Lord teach us to pray as your Disciples. Help us to listen to your answers.

Dear Jesus, it is because we love you, and because we must take care of our families, and because we must we love our neighbors as ourselves, that these world problems must be a priority in our lives. This is not the time to slow down or stop being your Disciples. With gratitude and despite the “muck” in our lives, we hear your call and see your vision. We will step out in faith to do something constructive to make the Kingdom of Heaven real today for everyone. We know it will take sacrifice...the solutions won't come easily. Dear Jesus, give us faith. Make our actions sacred and holy. Thy will be done.

“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...”

Amen!