

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Is 25:6-10

A reading from the prophet Isaiah
On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples
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.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 22

Response:

In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever
and ever.

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 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.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mt 22:1-14

(Shorter form read between >> << Mt 22:1-10)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

>> "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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that, through these acts of devotedness,
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord,
that, as you feed us with the nourishment
which comes from the most holy Body and
Blood of your Son,
so you may make us sharers of his divine
nature.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Sunday Message

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 11 October 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4



A FEAST FOR EVERYONE

MT 22:1-14

In today's Gospel, Jesus says that the Kingdom of God is like a king who gives a great feast for his son's wedding. He has sent out the invitations, but those he invited to the feast aren't interested. They don't show up. They make excuses and avoid committing themselves.

The king is furious and tells his servants that those he invited have shown themselves unworthy of the banquet. Instead, the servants are to go out onto the roads and streets and invite absolutely everyone they can find. There is no need for personal invitations. Everyone is welcome. Before long, the wedding hall is full.

In the parable, the king represents God. The great feast is a traditional Jewish image of God's kingdom. We see this in today's first reading from Isaiah. Matthew is telling the story of God's involvement with God's people, and how this is played out in the life of Jesus.

Matthew knows the end of the story. He has seen how Jesus was rejected by the people of Israel, for whom he came, just as they had rejected the prophets before him. They have rejected God's invitation over and over again, and so the Good News is now preached to the Gentiles. God is opening the gates of the kingdom to everyone everywhere.

God is a gracious host who hopes that everyone will come to his feast. It doesn't matter who we are or where we come from. All that is asked of us is that we respond wholeheartedly to this invitation by doing our best to live in tune with the values of God's kingdom. ■

DO

Think of your attitude to the stranger, the newcomer, the one who is different. How welcoming are you?

SAY

"Lord, help me to live in such a way that I will be able to feast at your heavenly banquet forever. Amen."

PRAY

Pray for those who have rejected God's invitation to his wedding feast. Pray that you will respond more fully to God's invitation.

LEARN

This is Prisoners' Sunday. We pray for prisoners and their families. We remember especially prisoners of conscience and political prisoners, those brave people made to suffer for their beliefs and moral courage.

REFLECT

Several years ago, an American woman called Tamara Fowler was due to get married. Two hundred guests were invited. But then, a few weeks before the big day, Tamara decided to break off her engagement. Her parents were heartbroken. They had been looking forward to the wedding and had spent thousands of dollars planning a dinner reception at a top restaurant.

Her father thought about the situation, talked it over with his wife, and prayed about it one night before going to bed. The next morning, he later said, he knew what they had to do. They decided to go ahead with the wedding dinner as planned—but not with the original guest list. Instead, they invited a different group: 200 homeless men, women and children. The family contacted a local homeless charity. The woman who picked up the phone later said she was so shocked, she thought it was a prank call. The Fowlers explained what they wanted to do and that they especially wanted to help children.

And so, on the day the wedding was due to

take place, buses brought dozens of needy people to one of Atlanta's top wedding venues. Children had space outside to play. Face painters and jugglers were hired to entertain them.

The children, it transpired, had to be shown how to eat hors' d'oeuvres, how to use the right cutlery. They weren't used to fine china. At evening's end, the caterer was amazed. For the first time, she said, at the end of a big wedding there were no leftovers. Every plate was clean. Those special guests were fed, but they received more than a great meal that day – they received love. They felt included. They hadn't been forgotten.

That meal was a foretaste of the kingdom of heaven, an image of the heavenly feast. Pope Francis often described the church as a big tent and not a small chapel that holds only a few. He repeatedly stressed the importance of welcome and inclusion. Inclusion reflects God's mercy, he said, and God's mercy embraces everyone. Christians must mirror God's mercy by opening our hearts to others without

judging or excluding anyone based on status, race, ability, or background. Inclusion, he emphasised, must go beyond rhetoric and be reflected in daily life. It should create a "culture of social tenderness."

Days after his election, Pope Leo said the same: "We must be a church with open arms for everyone, open to all who need our presence, dialogue, love."

As they sat in that hotel eating great food off of fine china, those homeless people must have said to themselves, "I wish it could be like this all the time." Of course, it couldn't. But they had been given a glimpse of how things could be, of how things should be.

To be Christian is to welcome and include. It's the opposite of them and us. Our challenge is to live in such a way as to make God's presence real and tangible, by creating homes, families, communities, and parishes that are welcoming and loving, so that ours will be a church of which it can be said: "Here comes everybody." ■