

11 OCTOBER 2020

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING HYMN

**Come to the table of the Lord, my friends,
Come to the altar of his love.**

He lived and died for you and me, my friends,
He comes again to us today.

True love means giving of yourselves, my friends,
Demanding nothing in return.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

O Lord, we pray that Your grace may go before us at all times 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, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Is 25:6-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Our Response is: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.

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/**

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 our staff
with these you give me comfort. **R/**

You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup overflowing. **R/**

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

GOSPEL: Mt 22:1-14

REFLECTION:

In our lives, most of us have received different kinds of invitations. For example we are invited to Birthdays and Weddings, to an Annual Day at School, inauguration of New Office Premises etc... What's important is that we have to respond to these invitations. It's our response that matters to the Lord. Jesus' parable would have reminded those listening about the "The Song of the Vineyard," in the book of the prophet Isaiah. Each tells us about the fruits the vineyard produces. What kinds of fruit are we producing within ourselves, our families, our parish community and as the church in the world?

In the first reading Isaiah gives us a description of a banquet i.e. a feast of joy in the end times where Israel and all nations are invited. The gospel describes the wedding feast or end time messianic banquet. It is at the end time when God will have completed the saving work for which Jesus was sent.

The three readings of today when taken together bring out the promise on God's part and the response that is contrasted in the gospel. Psalm 23 reminds us to place our trust in God who is our Shepherd. It is He who heals us, guides us and nourishes us. The psalmist knows God's protecting hand is always with him. He is fully aware of God's constant invitation to experience fullness of life that he offers us. Which areas of my life is God inviting me to surrender to him and change ? **Pause**

In the Gospel, the king plans to fill the wedding hall with guests whom he has invited. His guest list has been carefully planned. But these invited guests do not come. Matthew shows us that they are indifferent to the grace offered to them. Then, the king sends his servants out to the crossroads and tells them to invite anyone they can find. The hall must be filled. "*When the king came, he noticed one without a wedding garment*". Matthew contrasts unworthiness with the indifference of the invited guest. No matter how unworthy we are, God continuously invites us to the royal banquet i.e. the wedding feast of His Son. This invitation requires us to respond positively to the Lord. In my daily life, am I ready to be a living witness of God's presence and His kingdom? **Pause**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: God invites us by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, to make our requests known to Him. Let us confidently bring our prayers before Him.

Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may be open to God's invitation to change in our lives; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority, that they may be open to follow the Constitution laid down by their respective countries and open to God's Spirit; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who are hungry and malnourished, that their needs may be met from the abundance of the earth's resources; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that we may grow in Christian maturity and be effective witnesses of God's presence; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Heavenly Father, it is in You that we find peace that surpasses all understanding. Hear our prayers and help us to witness Christ and his presence in the World as we help build the kingdom of God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord's Prayer together) Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, we entreat Your majesty most humbly that, as You nourish us with Your Word, You may make us sharers of Your Son's divine nature. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

**With a song in our hearts we shall go on our way
To bring God's love to everyone we meet today.**

Love, love, love is his name. – 2

Great, great, great is his name. - 2

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

*Commission For Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*