

[137] **TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME A**

FIRST READING

The Lord will prepare a feast
and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah 25:6-10a

On this mountain the Lord All-Powerful
will prepare for all nations a feast of the finest foods.
Choice wines and the best meat will be served.
Here the Lord will strip away
the funeral clothes that cover the nations.
The Lord All-Powerful will destroy the power of death
and wipe away each tear.
No longer will his people be embarrassed everywhere.
The Lord has spoken!
On that day, people will say,
“The Lord God has saved us!
Let’s celebrate.
We waited and waited, and now he is here.”

The powerful arm of the Lord will protect this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

23:1-3a, 4abcd and 5ac, 6

R. (6cd) I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

You, Lord, are my shepherd.
I will never be in need.
You let me rest in fields
of green grass.
You lead me to streams
of peaceful water,
and you refresh my life.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

I may walk through valleys
as dark as death,

but I won't be afraid.
You are with me.
You treat me to a feast,
and you honor me as your guest.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Your kindness and love
will always be with me
each day of my life,
and I will live forever
in your house, Lord.

R. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

SECOND READING

I am able to do all things in Christ who strengthens me.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Brothers and sisters:

I know what it is to be poor or to have plenty,
and I have lived under all kinds of conditions.
I know what it means to be full or to be hungry,
to have too much or too little.
Christ gives me the strength to face anything.

It was good of you to help me when I was having such a hard time.

I pray that God will take care of all your needs
with the wonderful blessings that come from Christ Jesus!
May God our Father be praised forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Ephesians 1:17-18

R. 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.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 22:1-10

Jesus used this story to teach the people:

“The kingdom of heaven is like what happened
when a king gave a wedding banquet for his son.

The king sent some servants to tell the invited guests
to come to the banquet,
but the guests refused.

He sent other servants to say to the guests,
‘The banquet is ready!
My cattle and prize calves have all been prepared.
Everything is ready.
Come to the banquet!’”

“But the guests did not pay any attention.
Some of them left for their farms,
and some went to their places of business.
Others grabbed the servants, beat them up, and killed them.”

“This made the king so furious that he sent an army to kill
those murderers and burn down their city.
Then he said to the servants,
‘It is time for the wedding banquet,
and the invited guests don’t deserve to come.
Go out to the street corners and tell everyone you meet
to come to the banquet.’
They went out on the streets and brought in everyone they could find,
good and bad alike.
And the banquet room was filled with guests.”

The gospel of the Lord.

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for inviting us to share in Your meal each and every week. Help us to open our hearts today so that we may respond with gratefulness. Thank you for inviting us to be your friend.

In your name we pray. Amen.

Readings

Isaiah 25: 6-10a

Psalms 23:1-3a, 4abcd and 5ac, 6

Romans Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Matthew 22: 1-10

Reflection

Today our readings talk about having a party. Remember your last birthday party. Did you pick out Scooby Doo plates, a Clifford cake, Dora the Explorer napkins or Spider Man balloons?

Imagine your birthday is coming soon and your mom or your dad asks you what kind of party you like? [ask the following questions]

What kind of cake do you want?

What kind of ice cream?

What kind of decorations do you want?

What kind of activities or games would you play?

What kind of take-home treats would you give to your guests?

Finally, whom do you want to invite?

Now that we have the party ready and the guests invited – we are like the king in today's Gospel who prepared the party for his son.

What happened in the story? [the invited guests did not come]

So suppose you are ready for the party to begin at 2 o'clock and no one comes to the party? Your mom and dad get on their cell phones and start calling the parents of the guests. They hear these excuses

Oh, my son can't come because he has a baseball game.

Oh, Mary can't come because she has a dance competition this afternoon.

My son, Jimmy decided he wanted to play his new computer game today.

Meredith has piano lessons.

You would be so sad and disappointed. But your mom or dad would know what to do. They would continue to make calls and invite others to come to the party.

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And when those friends arrived, it turned out to be the best party ever.

Jesus invites us to follow him, to be his friend and to come to his party – his feast – the Mass each week.

Discussion Questions

1. How can I live the message in today's Gospel message this week?
2. How do I welcome friends into our lives each day?
3. How can I include the lonely people on the playground into our activity?
4. How can I invite the kids in my neighborhood to be a part of my circle of friends?
5. How can I be kind to my brothers and sisters this week?

Activity

1. Sing "We Come to Your Table" by Carey Landry.
2. Pass out some Birthday stickers to each child.
3. Have each child pray for a friend whom they would invite to a party.