

Readings October 15, 2023

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And the LORD will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸the LORD will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of the chosen people God will take away from all the
earth,

for the LORD has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,

Lo, this is our God, for whom we have waited, so that God might save
us.

This is the LORD from whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of the LORD.

Psalm: Psalm 23

You prepare a table before me, and my cup is running over. (Ps. 23:5)

¹The LORD^l is my shepherd;
I shall not ^l be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down ^l in green pastures
and leads me be- ^l side still waters.**

³You restore my ^l soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways ^l for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall ^l fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ^l comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence ^l of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is ^l running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ^l of my
life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ^l LORD forever. R**

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The dominion of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴“For many are called, but few are chosen.”