



## ***28<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME*** ***YEAR A – October 15, 2017***

Our first Reading today comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Is 25:6-10A). Some scripture scholars call him the most important prophet in the Old Testament. He prophesied on behalf of God 700 years before Jesus was born. The first 39 chapters of his book include warnings and condemnation of a sinful nation that had turned away from God. He was speaking about his own people, the nation of Israel. At that time, they were slaves in Babylon.

The last 27 chapters of Isaiah bring a message of forgiveness, comfort and hope. The message of hope looks forward to the coming of the Messiah. He describes the Messiah as both a suffering servant and a sovereign Lord. Those words are fulfilled in the person of Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, and the Redeemer of our world.

In these later chapters, we hear that God has prepared a wonderful feast for all of us: a feast where every tear will be wiped away. There will be no more sadness, no more pain, no more suffering. He is talking about the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are not there yet. We still have self-less work to do here on earth. St. Paul reminds us in the second reading (Phil 4:12-14, 19-20) that we can do that work because we find our strength in Jesus. He tells us, "My God will fully supply whatever you need!" His God is our God too. Trust Him.

In the Gospel today (Matthew 22:1-14), Jesus tells us a parable about a wedding feast. The lesson of the story applies to all of us one way or another. The king who gave the wedding feast is God himself. The people invited and the people on the highways and byways are figures of real people who were listening to Jesus. Such people can be found in our world too. Where do you fit in? Have you accepted the invitation to the feast or, like some people in the parable, are you too busy with other things. All of us are asked today to reflect on the group to which we belong. The good news is we can change our minds if we are in the wrong group. There is still time. The bad news is "...many are called but few are chosen".

We don't have to be part of the "bad news". We get to choose. If you ever have a day when you feel like you are in "low cotton" or don't fit in – turn to the responsorial psalm of today's Mass (Psalm 23). It is one of the 73 Psalms written by King David. In my opinion, it is the most beautiful and uplifting psalm in the whole psalter.

*"The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want..."*  
*"I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life..."*

Take time to reflect on the word of God in each of the readings today and decide what you will do with your "invitation to the feast". I pray that *YOU* may live in the house of the Lord all the days of your life – beginning here on earth and ending in heaven.

