



Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

(Lord) you are good and forgiving,
full of love for all who call to you. *Entrance Antiphon*

Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, every good thing comes from you.

Opening Prayer

... conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be
loved more than a giver of gifts. *First Reading*

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
And my Father will love him, and we shall
come to him. *Alleluia verse*

REFLECTIONS

What does the week hold for me, and how do I feel God may be
calling me?

And ... what do I want to ask of God for myself and others?



AMDG

22ND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C, 28 AUGUST 2016

The man who humbles himself will be exalted.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, every good thing comes from you.
Fill our hearts with love for you, increase our faith,
and by your constant care protect the good you have given us.

Scripture often pictures God's Kingdom, the perfect society, as a banquet.

In the New Testament, the meals in which Christians share – and the Eucharist is among them – are meant to be true signs of that yet-to-be-realised banquet and Kingdom. They are occasions of joy flowing from the belief that our identity lies in being loved by God, and of sharing this joy unselectively.

How am I feeling as I start to give time to the Lord? Eager to pray?
Tired? Anxious? Or ...?

I tell the Lord, and ask God for what I feel I need: to be able to praise
him; to ask for a deeper faith, or ...?

This prayer prompts me to appreciate how faithful God is to me; how
he cares constantly for me, and so I may find myself reflecting on some
of the 'good things' that I now realise have been given to me today.

I give myself time to ponder them and to give thanks to God.

Perhaps I am moved to ask forgiveness for those times I have lacked
faith and trust in God today.

I end my prayer giving thanks and praise to my loving God.

FIRST READING
ECCLESIASTICUS 3: 17–18, 20, 28–29

My child, conduct your affairs with humility,
and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.
Humble yourself the more, the greater you are,
and you will find favour with God.
What is too sublime for you, seek not;
into things beyond your strength search not.
The mind of a sage appreciates proverbs,
and an attentive ear is the joy of the wise.
Water quenches a flaming fire,
and alms atone for sins.

*'Lectio Divina' encourages us to read the two texts on this page.
Ecclesiasticus links more with the first half of the Gospel passage.
The Psalm refers more to the second part: to God's care for the poor, and
to those rejected and oppressed in society – a theme of Luke's Gospel.*

I reflect on a phrase that draws me ...
I allow it to touch my heart ...
I speak to God about whatever comes to my mind and heart ...

PSALM 67
GOD, IN YOUR GOODNESS, YOU HAVE MADE A HOME
FOR THE POOR

The just rejoice and exult before God; they are glad and rejoice.
Sing to God, chant praise to his name; whose name is the LORD.

The father of orphans and the defender of widows
is God in his holy dwelling.
God gives a home to the forsaken;
He leads forth prisoners to prosperity.

A bountiful rain you showered down, O God,
upon your inheritance;
You restored the land when it languished;
your flock settled in it;
In your goodness, O God, you provided it for the needy.

GOSPEL LUKE 14: 1, 7–14

Now it happened that on a Sabbath day he had gone to share a meal in the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely.

He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this:

'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you will have to go and take the lowest place.

'No, when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." Then, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who raises himself up will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be raised up.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relations or rich neighbours, in case they invite you back and so repay you. No, when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; then you will be blessed, for they have no means to repay you and so you will be repaid when the upright rise again.'

How do I define status: by rank or occupation? What are the criteria Jesus applies to others, to me?

How do I value people? Whom do I think are of worth? Whom do I 'cultivate'? Whom do I invite or exclude from my heart?

I read the story several times allowing God's Spirit to invite me into the scene: Jesus talking to the host, to the guests, to me.

I ask God's Spirit to help me discern the values of the Kingdom illustrated in this parable, and how they apply to the different areas in my life.

I ask patiently for the graces of generosity and of service of others.