



AMDG
28TH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A
15TH OCTOBER 2017



**Come – the Lord has prepared
a banquet for us!**

OPENING PRAYER

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.

This week's readings remind us that God desires to be generous to us. He not only invites all to share in his great feast of life, but also fills us with his strength – the power of Christ at work within each one of us.

Isaiah (*first reading*) describes the banquet the Lord has prepared for all people on his holy mountain – a place where death is destroyed, and all can rejoice in God's saving power.

The *psalm* also reassures us of the great feast spread for us by the Lord, our Shepherd, the one we can trust to guide and comfort us.

St Paul, writing from prison (*second reading*), similarly tells how lavishly God meets our needs, in the way that only God can. Though Paul has experienced all sorts of hardships, he knows God has equipped him to deal with absolutely anything, both good and bad. This amazing strength comes from Christ, whose empowering grace is greater than anything we can desire or imagine.

In Jesus's parable of the wedding banquet (*Gospel*), many of the invited guests refuse to come: some just continue with their business; others kill the messengers. But the king then commands that *all* are invited – good and bad – to fill the empty places. In the same way, God invites *us* all to share in his kingdom – can we respond positively?

This week, I might ask God to help *me* say a confident 'Yes!' to that invitation, and to pray for even greater dependence on his power working within and around me.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 4: 12–14, 19–20

I know how to be poor and I know how to be rich too. I have been through my initiation and now I am ready for anything anywhere: full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. All the same, it was good of you to share with me in my hardships. In return my God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

As I place myself consciously in the Lord's presence,
I take time to come to stillness in the way that suits me best.
'Lord, what do you want to show me today?'

I read St Paul's words slowly, reverently.
I perhaps picture him in his prison cell, as he reflects on the ups and
downs of following Christ.

I notice what his words stir in me.

Perhaps I reflect on my own journey, or on some of the difficulties I see
in the world around me.

Do I share Paul's confidence in being 'ready for anything, anywhere'?
Or do I feel differently?

Whatever my response, I entrust my feelings and thoughts openly
to the Lord, as to a dear friend. I ask him for any grace I need.

Paul reassures the Philippians that God will meet each one of their
needs with unparalleled generosity.

On what or on whom would I like God's generous blessings to fall
today?

I bring my desires to the Lord.

When I am ready, I gently bring my prayer to an end, giving thanks.

I may like to carry Paul's words with me this week, trusting that God's
grace is always at work within me, whatever each day brings:

*'There is nothing I cannot master
with the help of the One who gives me strength.'*

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22: 1–14 (PART)

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a feast for his son’s wedding. He sent his servants to call those who had been invited, but they would not come. Next he sent some more servants. “Tell those who have been invited,” he said, “that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, everything is ready. Come to the wedding.” But they were not interested: one went off to his farm, another to his business, and the rest seized his servants, maltreated them and killed them. The king was furious. He despatched his troops, destroyed those murderers and burnt their town. Then he said to his servants, “The wedding is ready; but as those who were invited proved to be unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find to the wedding”. So these servants went out on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

I ask to be aware of the Lord’s welcoming presence as I still myself for prayer. I rest here for a while, before turning reverently to the Gospel. Perhaps I watch Jesus from among the audience, noticing how he tells this parable.

What strikes me about the king ... the servants ... the guests?

I notice how I feel.

God is inviting me to share in his feast, too.

Everything is ready ... yet do I sometimes find reasons for turning him down?

I speak to the Lord of this, trusting in his love and compassion for me.

At the end of the parable, the king asks everyone to his feast, regardless of who they are, or how they behave.

How might I help bring those around *me* to share in God’s invitation?

I speak to the Lord as a trusted friend, asking for whatever I need.

In time I end my prayer, perhaps with a slow sign of the cross.

Glory be to the Father ...

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

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

First Reading

Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.

Responsorial Psalm

God will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus,
as lavishly as only God can.

Second Reading

I have my banquet all prepared ... everything is ready.
Invite everyone you can find! .

Gospel

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:

Isaiah 25: 6–10; Psalm 22 (23); Philippians. 4: 12–14, 19–20;

Matthew 22: 1–14

**Today ...
There is nothing
I cannot master
with the help of
the One who gives
me strength!
(Philippians 4: 13)**



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JESUIT
Ministries



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