28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, October 11th, 2026

Isaiah 25:6-10a - On this mountain, the Lord will provide richly for his people.

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 - After receiving gifts from the Philippians, St. Paul thanks them, saying: … "They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Phil 4: 18-20).

Matthew 22:1-14 - The King Who Wants a Full House.

The Thanksgiving Table: Imagine a mother preparing Thanksgiving dinner. She gets up early, prepares the turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and dessert, and carefully sets the table, hoping the whole family will be together. But then the messages begin: "Mom, something came up." "Mom, sorry, we are really busy." "Mom, maybe we will come later." Finally, dinner is ready. The table is beautiful, but several chairs are empty. What hurts her isn't the wasted food; she misses her children, her family. She didn't prepare the meal simply to feed people. She prepared it because she wanted to be with the people she loves. And that is the heart of today's gospel passage.

God Wants You: The King prepares a banquet and says, "Come." But the guests are too busy. One goes to his farm. Another goes to his business. They aren't necessarily doing anything bad. They simply allow other things to become more important than the invitation. **How often we act the same way!**

God invites us to prayer, but we are busy.
God invites us to worship/Mass, but something else becomes more important.
God invites us to Confession, but we say, "maybe later."
God invites us to forgive others, but we hold onto the hurt. Sometimes we think Christianity is mainly about what God wants from us. Today's gospel reminds us that God really wants us. He wants a relationship with us. He wants our hearts. He wants His children around His table. That is why family meals, Christian fellowships, and family thanksgiving gatherings, etc., are more than thanking God for our blessings. We should thank God for our families, our homes, our work, and our health. And we must be careful not to become so busy enjoying God's gifts that we forget the Giver.

After he received gifts from the Philippians, St Paul thanks them, saying: … "They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Philippians 4:12-14,19-20

The Wedding Garment: Then comes the difficult part. The King finds a man without a wedding garment. The invitation is freely given, but it demands a response. The wedding garment represents the life that must correspond to the grace we have received. ***The wedding garment is not about clothes or appearance; it is about the heart.*** It is about conversion. God can bring us into His house, but He does not force us to change our hearts. The invitation is God's gift to you and I. We cannot receive the invitation to the Kingdom while deliberately refusing the life of the Kingdom. The garment is our response. God welcomes us freely, but He also asks us to allow that relationship to change us.

If Christ has forgiven me, am I becoming more forgiving? If He has shown me mercy, am I becoming more merciful? If I belong to Jesus, can people see that in the way I live? It's not about perfection. It's about transformation.

Let us wear the wedding garment Monday through Sunday. We don't wear that garment only on Sunday. We wear it in how we speak to our spouse when we are frustrated. How we treat our children when we are tired. How we behave at work when nobody is watching. How we respond to the person who has hurt us.

The question isn't simply, “Did I come to the banquet?” The deeper question is: “Am I becoming more like Jesus who invited me?” Am I grateful for the blessings I have received, or am I always comparing myself with others? Do I share what I have with those who are struggling?

In the end, the question is not simply whether we have received the invitation. The question is whether our lives show that we have accepted it. So in this holy Mass (Eucharist – giving thanks***), take a deep breath, give thanks to God for what you have,*** be faithful in what you do, be generous with what you receive, and be ready for the greater feast God has prepared for you and I. Above that, draw even closer to the One who gave it to you. Friends, the divine table is ready. Can you hear God saying to you right now; “I don't only want something from you. I want you. Come home. Come home.” Amen.

Thank you, and remain blessed in the Lord.

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