Readings for October 11

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

1 O 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.
2 For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
4 For 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,
5 the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

6 On 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.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
9 It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Psalm: Psalm 23

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

1 The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.
2 **The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures**
and leads me be- | side still waters.
3 You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

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

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
3 Yes, 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 coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.
4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5 Let your gentleness
be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your
requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all
understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, 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. 9 As for the things that you have learned
and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace
will be with you.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2 "The kingdom of
heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.
3 He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding
banquet, but they would not come. 4 Again 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.' 5 But they made light of it and went away, one to his
farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated
them, and killed them. 7 The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed
those murderers, and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his slaves, 'The
wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore into the
main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' 10 Those
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, 12 and he said to him, 'Friend, how did
you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. 13 Then 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."