

We are invited to a feast today. We gather around the table of the Lord, summoned by the Holy Spirit to share in this Eucharistic meal with family, friends, and neighbors, fellow pilgrims on the journey. May this feast nourish and sustain us as we go forth in joy to continue building the kingdom in our little corner of the world and beyond.

As we gather together let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith: p. 108

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*bow as we say*) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite:

My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

Lord Jesus, you guide us along the right paths: Lord have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you show us the way to the banquet of eternal life: Christ have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you fully supply whatever we need: Lord have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

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.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 68

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 5:1-7

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.

On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm: p. 68

Psalm 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

R/. I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

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A vine from Egypt you transplanted; you drove away the nations and planted it. It put forth its foliage to the Sea, its shoots as far as the River. **R/.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. In verdant pastures he gives me repose; beside restful waters he leads me; he refreshes my soul. **R/.**

You spread the table before me in the sight of my foes; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. **R/.**

Only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. **R/.**

Second Reading p. 70

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Philippians 4: 12-14, 19-20

Brothers and sisters: I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel p. 70

Matthew 22:1-14

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord

Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come. A second time he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those invited: "Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast."' Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business. The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come. Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.' The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment. The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?' But he was reduced to silence. Then the king

said to his attendants, 'Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.' Many are invited, but few are chosen."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

For many reasons, it's hard to eat just the right amount. Millions of people do not get enough food to satisfy their hunger or provide enough nutrition to adequately sustain their health. On the other hand, many who have plenty find it difficult to get up from the table until they have overeaten. They then devote time, money, and energy to lose the weight they've gained. Saint Paul has known both abundance and want and has "learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry" (Philippians 4:12). He looks to the Lord to strengthen him. God, he says, fully supplies what we need. It is through the grace of God that the people he encounters—such as the Philippians—share with him from their plenty. Just as there is enough food at the Eucharist to satisfy all who come and enough food at the heavenly banquet to satisfy all who are welcomed there, there is enough food on this planet to satisfy every human life. It is just a matter, as Paul would put it, of sharing with those in distress.

The king in the Gospel is persistent in his generosity and hospitality, even after tragedy befalls his servants. As the king has done, so must we do. Through our generosity, God's generosity is effected. It is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. In baptism, we were invited to the feast. But we were also invited to build the kingdom of God. We are called to be generous and welcoming as well, as we are God's emissaries now, inviting all to the feast.

However, the king has sharp words for those who are not dressed for the event. When we were invited to the feast, in baptism, we were called to "put on" Christ, to clothe ourselves in him. If we do so, becoming the face of Christ for others, we are appropriately dressed for the heavenly banquet. We put on Christ when we sacrifice our own desires for the needs of others.

Question of the Week: What can I do this week to put on Christ, to pass along God's generosity to others?

Prayer of the Faithful:

Let us raise our prayers up to God, whom we trust to fully supply whatever we need.

- For the Church, that we may always welcome all who approach with sincere hearts and be a model of acceptance and hospitality to all who seek refuge, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all who feel unaccepted or unworthy due to their circumstances, hardships, or identity, that they may always realize God's inclusive invitation, let us pray to the Lord.
- For a growing respect in society for all human life, from conception to natural death, from the main roads to the dingy alleys, let us pray to the Lord.
- For indigenous peoples around the globe, especially those who have suffered generations of rejection or mistreatment, that they may be treated with respect and dignity, let us pray to the Lord.
- For those who are homebound or suffering from illness or injury and cannot join us at this feast, and for the ministers of Communion who visit them with the Eucharist and our prayers and support, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord.

Generous God, you shower everyone with your great generosity, bad and good alike, rich and poor alike, strong and weak alike. Grant us the grace to do the same as you hear the prayers we make today and every day through your greatest gift of all, your Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: Page 140

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us, ☩ protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ! **Thanks be to God.**