

We Respond

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 22)

ANTIPHON: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

RESPONSE: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

LECTOR: The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose. Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit. **R.**

LECTOR: He guides me along the right path; he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and your staff; with these you give me comfort. **R.**

LECTOR: You have prepared a banquet for me in the sight of my foes. My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing. **R.**

LECTOR: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me all the days of my life. In the Lord 's own house shall I dwell for ever and ever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart that we might see how great is the hope to which we are called. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **Or**

When the Lord appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

TODAY'S READINGS Isaiah 25:6-10; Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20; Matthew 22:1-14

NEXT WEEK (29th Sunday of Year A) Isaiah 45:1, 4-6; Ps 95; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5; Matthew 22:15-21.

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Invitation to God's table



11 October 2020 28th Sunday Year A

In 2006 at the 56th Berlin International Film Festival, filmmakers were invited to compete in a Short Film Competition on the theme: Food, Taste and Hunger. About 3600 filmmakers from around the world participated, but only 32 films were chosen to be screened at the Berlinale Talent Campus.

The winner was a six-minute Filipino film, "Chicken a la Carte", made by Ferdinand Dimadura. This touching short film sent a very strong message about how we value what we are given. It shows customers at a KFC outlet eating half the food they had bought and then throwing away the rest. But that was not the film's main focus. It then shows a man collecting the garbage and selecting leftovers to feed his family; and then the joyful faces of the man's small children as they see him arriving with the baskets of leftover food. They enjoy the food like it's a great banquet.

What is inspiring is the hope and spirituality that never left these people. Even in this dire situation, they thank God and say grace and give thanks for what they have. The readings of the liturgy this Sunday depict great banquets. The passage from Isaiah in the first reading paints a portrait of the lavish final banquet of the Lord, with the best food and drink imaginable, where his guests can enjoy each other's company and

that of the Lord himself. In the reading from Matthew's gospel, Jesus uses the parable of a wedding banquet to teach his hearers about the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus emphasises the generosity and hospitality of God. In the parable the king, after those who had been invited didn't bother to come to the feast, sends his servants out to invite everyone they can find – good and bad - to come instead. However, the parable also stresses that there will be a judgment about the worthiness of the guests attending the wedding party, and such judgment belongs to the king. When the king comes into the assembly of guests and finds someone "not wearing a suitable wedding garment", the king has that guest thrown out.

The point is that those who are invited to God's banquet need to present themselves as worthy to be there. I like to think they are people who give thanks to God for all the goodness they have received, however difficult life may be. In both the gospel and the first reading, it is God who prepares the banquet, who calls, and who longs for all peoples to attend and feast in friendship. We are all invited and we are all called to respond, rejoice and give thanks, and to live lives that are worthy of the banquet that is the kingdom of heaven.

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