Readings + 20th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 28 A + Oct. 11, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Isaiah 25:1-9

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 the LORD will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
the LORD will swallow up death forever.
8 Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
And the disgrace of the chosen people God 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; for whom we have waited, so that God might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of the LORD.

Psalmody Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.
You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
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.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading Philippians 4:1-9

Paul writes: 1 My dear family, 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 co-workers, 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, dear family, 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, and the God of peace will be with you.

Holy Gospel Matthew 22:1-14

Matthew and Luke each retell a parable of Jesus which recounts a feast where the invited guests reject the invitation, but they are different parables told in different contexts in Jesus' ministry. In the parable in Luke, the invitation is just from a man who's throwing a dinner party. His guests simply have excuses, "better things to do," and the man sends his servant into the streets and welcomes "the poor, the crippled, the blind, the lame." In the parable here in Matthew, the invitation is from a king, who gives a wedding banquet for his son. The guests mock the invitation, the king destroys them and their city, and then gathers guests from the streets, "both good and bad." And last, there is the detail about the guest without proper attire. In short, it is a completely different parable that Jesus tells here, although on a similar theme as his other one in Luke.

1 Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables,
saying: 2 "The reign 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."