

**Mt 22:1-14; Is 25:6-10a; Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 Come to the Feast**

**Come to the feast in this mass where the priests will raise the Holy Eucharist between heaven and earth...because the divine is united to humanity—and to us--in the incarnation of Jesus Christ.**

**Come to the feast of life yet to come. Because God will provide all that we need: abundant feasting; a permanent victory over sin and death; and life without end (Is 25:6-8).**

**God in His love, patience, and mercy wants to save us so much, that He sent us the prophets. But we refused them.**

**God wants to save us so much, that He sent us other servants: John the Baptist, the apostles, the angels and saints, and his own son: Jesus, but we rejected and killed them.**

**Then why? Why do so many refuse His invitation? Because sometimes we just don't understand it. God's ways are not our ways (Is 55:8-9).**

**Maybe we are consumed with the day-to-day struggles of work and putting food on the table.**

**Or maybe it's just too hard to obey the commandments like forgiving those who offend us and loving everyone the way God loves us...especially in a world full of sin and empty of love.**

**So, we reject His invitation...especially when we sin.**

**But what that all means is—we have a calling. Like the good King, God is saying to us: *Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find...bad and good alike* (Mt 22:9-10).**

**Our mission is to invite them: *Come to the feast!* But not so fast. Because that's not all:**

***When the King came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment* (Mt 22:11). His hands and feet were bound and he was cast...*into the darkness* (Mt 22:13).**

**Like Jesus said, *Many are invited, but few are chosen* (Mt 22:14). Why?**

**Because: *Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven* (Mt 7:21).**

**Words are not enough. Faith alone is not enough. Those in attendance had to have faith in order to accept the invitation. But that wasn’t enough.**

**What we need is to put on the “wedding garment.” And the “wedding garment” is Jesus Christ. So, our mission is to help them put on the “wedding garment” Jesus Christ.**

**But How? By putting on the “wedding garment” ourselves. So, let’s put on Jesus Christ! (Rom 13:14).**

**Let us clothe ourselves in His faith, in His hope, and in His love, so we are ready, willing and able to accept God’s will as our own: *Father not my will, but your will be done* (Lk 22:42).**

**May we abide in Him and Him in us (Jn 15:4) so we are filled with His holiness, filled with His Holy Spirit, and filled with His justice.**

**Yes! May His justice abide in us! Like St. Paul said is:**

***Put on ... heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another...as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do* (Col 3:12-13)...**

***And over all these put on love, that is the bond of perfection* (Col 3:14).**

**Jesus fed the hungry 5,000 with five loaves and two fish (Mt 14:13-21).**

**Jesus healed every sickness and disease (Mt 4:23-25). Jesus forgave us when we nailed Him, with our sins, to that cross (Lk 23:34).**

**And Jesus gave us from that cross: His life, His mother, and then His Spirit (Jn 19:26-27, 30). Can we not do the same...even if we have just a little bit of Jesus in us? Yes we can!**

**In the first reading Isaiah says that, *On [His] mountain, [the Lord of Hosts] will destroy the veil that veils all peoples...he will destroy death forever (Isa 25:7-8).***

**On that cross He did just that: When darkness fell and there was a total eclipse of the sun; the veil of the temple which had separated us from God was torn down the middle (Lk 23:44-45).**

**And, on that cross Jesus cried out, *Father, into your hands I commend my spirit* (Lk 23:46). *And bowing His head, he handed over the spirit* (Jn 19:30). To whom? Into You and I!**

**So come into us Spirit of Jesus when we receive Him in Holy Communion!**

**Come into us Spirit of Jesus when we confess our sins so our wedding garment is washed clean by the blood of the lamb (Rev 7:14).**

**And come into us Spirit of Jesus in every prayer, in every sacrifice, in every suffering, and in every good thing we ever do.**

**Give us the strength St. Paul had in the second reading: *I can do all things in him who strengthens me* (Phil 4:14).**

**And we can too! Because clothed in the “wedding garment” of Jesus Christ we can do everything and anything—by the grace, the strength and the power of God in us!**

**Let us pray: Lord Jesus, give us the grace to invite whomever we find...bad and good alike...to the feast and to put on the “wedding garment” by putting on the “wedding garment” ourselves.**

**Clothe us with Your faith, Your Hope, and Your love--the very grace, the strength, and the power of God in us!...**

**so that our faith becomes action and our actions reveal our faith, now and forever, for the greater glory of God. Amen.**