

*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.

*Join us for  
Saint Gerard's  
Blessing*

### **Saint Gerard's Blessing**

Saint Gerard Majella's Blessing is held annually on October 16, his feast day. St Gerard has long been known as a helper of families, especially expectant mothers, new mothers, and children. Please send us your prayer intention before his feast day Blessing which can be viewed online this year from 6pm. Go to: [majellan.media/majellan-day-2023/](http://majellan.media/majellan-day-2023/)



# majellan

## *An invitation to God's banquet*



**October 15 2023 28th Sunday Year A**

The image of the abundant, fulfilling feast is used throughout the scriptures to explain God's promise of eternal life.

On the mountain of the Lord, as the prophet Isaiah says in today's first reading, God will "provide for all peoples a feast of juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines." This metaphor of the abundant feast is used to describe the promise of God that he will "destroy the veil" between himself and humanity, "wipe away the tears from every face" and "destroy death forever".

In today's gospel, Jesus uses this imagery of Isaiah and ties the prophet's promises into his own mission. Jesus' parable reveals how the great reunion between God and humanity, where God will provide for his people and defeat death forever as foretold by the prophets, is exactly what is being through Jesus' death and resurrection at Calvary. Hearing about Christ's coming, death and resurrection is like receiving an invitation to a great wedding banquet, where the banquet represents eternal life with God.

And as Isaiah says, this provision is for "all peoples." However, as Jesus goes on to say, "many are invited" to this heavenly banquet "but few are chosen."

There are people who reject the invitation to the eternal life that God has planned for us. As Jesus' parable explains, people often dismiss God's messengers without hearing what they have to say. Some have other business they consider more important. Others react aggressively to the message.

Some receive the message and come to the party, see everything that God has provided, but reject the way that has been prepared.

This invitation to eternal life that is being offered is more than just being assured of going to a nice place after we die. It is not about our souls receiving psychological enlightenment or a prize for good behaviour.

Eternal life, as Jesus says elsewhere in the gospels, is to know God, to know his goodness in the depths of our being, and to know Jesus Christ, and his message of salvation. In the life to come, we will be restored to communion with God and participation in his very nature. Eternal life, therefore, involves stepping into a new way of living. Not just accepting the invitation but living in the new life of love and holiness that we were created for.

What God wants more than anything else is that his children freely choose the life that he has on offer. And so, while we walk on this earth, the invitations are constantly issued to those of us willing to hear. Unlike the man who rejects to wear the wedding garment in this parable, which symbolises living the love and justice that God has created us for, we can respond differently to the king's gentle question: "My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?"

The gospel reminds us to keep accepting Jesus' invitations. The eternal life he is calling us to be part of is the one we have been created for.

**Joseph Doyle**

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