

The Living Word

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

11 October 2026

First Reading Is 25:6-10

The Lord will prepare a feast and will wipe away the tears from every cheek.

On this mountain,
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all people
a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine
wines,
of food rich and juicy, of fine strained wines.
On this mountain he will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,
and the shroud enwrapping all nations,
he will destroy Death for ever.
The Lord will wipe away
the tears from every cheek;
he will take away his people's shame
everywhere on earth,
for the Lord has said so.
That day, it will be said: See, this is our God
in whom we hoped for salvation;
the Lord is the one in whom we hoped.
We exult and we rejoice
that he has saved us;
for the hand of the Lord
rests on this mountain.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 22. R. v.6

*(R.) I shall live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life.*

1. 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.)*
2. 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.)*
3. 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.)*
4. 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.)*

Second Reading Phil 4:12-14, 19-20

I am able to do all things in him who strengthens me.

I know how to be poor and I know how to
be rich too. I have been through my initiation
and now I am ready for anything anywhere:

full stomach or empty stomach, poverty or
plenty. There is nothing I cannot master with
the help of the One who gives me strength.
All the same, it was good of you to share
with me in my hardships. In return my God
will fulfil all your needs, in Christ Jesus, as
lavishly as only God can. Glory to God, our
Father, for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation See Eph 1:17-18

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!

Gospel Mt 22:1-14

Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of
the people: 'The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a feast for his
son's wedding. He sent his servants to call
those who had been invited, but they would
not come. Next he sent some more servants.
"Tell those who have been invited" he said
"that I have my banquet all prepared, my oxen
and fattened cattle have been slaughtered,
everything is ready. Come to the wedding."
But they were not interested: one went off
to his farm, another to his business, and
the rest seized his servants, maltreated
them and killed them. The king was furious.
He dispatched his troops, destroyed those
murderers and burnt their town. Then he
said to his servants, "The wedding is ready;
but as those who were invited proved to be
unworthy, go to the crossroads in the town
and invite everyone you can find to the
wedding." So these servants went out onto
the roads and collected together everyone
they could find, bad and good alike; and the
wedding hall was filled with guests. When
the king came in to look at the guests he
noticed one man who was not wearing a
wedding garment, and said to him, "How did
you get in here, my friend, without a wedding
garment?" And the man was silent. Then the
king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand
and foot and throw him out into the dark,
where there will be weeping and grinding
of teeth." For many are called, but few are
chosen.'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

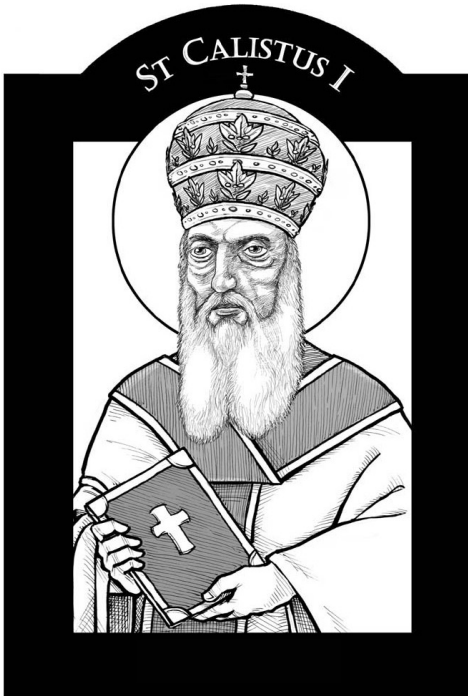
The servants of the king went out
and gathered in 'all whom they
found, good and evil alike'. They
respond, drawn by the attractive
prospect of sharing in the life of
the Lord of the Feast, and they are
welcomed, whether good or evil.

What about the king's (God's)
question to the wedding guest? 'My
friend, how come you are here
without a wedding garment?' The
guest might have replied: 'Because
of dire poverty', or 'Lack of time',
but the story goes on, 'But the
guest was silent'. The guest was
tongue-tied because he was caught
out having decided not to enter
into the spirit of the occasion.

That is why, at every baptism, we
look for a signal of commitment to
respond to the spirit of the
occasion, by the wearing of a white
garment. This anticipates the later
receiving of Holy Communion which
is a foretaste of the Feast of
Heaven.

We could pause for a moment at
this Mass to enter into the Spirit of
the occasion wearing the garment
of our baptismal commitment.

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St Calistus I was born a slave and worked for a Christian master named Carpophorus. His master put him in charge of a bank, but Calistus lost the money to bad debts and fearing punishment he fled Rome. After his capture, Calistus worked in a treadmill and then the mines of Sardinia, before being released with a number of other Christians to become a free man. Pope Zephyrinus put Calistus in charge of the Roman burial grounds (known today as the 'Cemetery of St Calistus') and he became a deacon. In 217 AD, he was elected pope in a brief and controversial reign, which saw the readmission to communion for repentant murderers and adulterers. He also preached that differences in economic class should not be a barrier to marriage - a teaching which put him in conflict with Roman civil law and sparked riots that led to his death.



BANQUET

How many words can you make from the letters in the word **BANQUET** ?

CROSSWORD

Across

- 2: a lavish meal given to celebrate a special occasion
 5: a large group of soldiers
 6: nice, kind
 7: extremely angry, enraged
 10: people you invite
 11: people came from the streets and filled the banquet _ _ _ _

Down

- 1: people who serve
 3: the _ _ _ _ gave a wedding banquet for his son
 4: a marriage celebration
 7: places where people grow food and raise animals
 8: a road that is lined with buildings
 9: a father and mother's male child

