



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9–15

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 28

FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹O 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.
²For 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.
³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
⁴For 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,
⁵the 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.

⁶On 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.
⁷And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
⁹It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

FIRST READING *Isaiah = eye-ZAY-uh*

This is a song of thanksgiving and demands that kind of joyful note. There are multiple word pictures here that require time to sink in. Particularly complex is the image of the feast in verse 6, in which each succeeding phrase amplifies the one before. Finally, there is a declaration of the power of God over death (which is frequently read at funeral liturgies). “Rejoice in his salvation” is a good motto with which the reader might approach this text.

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from Philippians.

¹My brothers and sisters,
whom I love and long for, my joy and crown,
stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.

³Yes, 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 coworkers,
whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.

⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near.

⁶Do not be anxious about anything,
but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving
let your requests be made known to God.

⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, 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.

⁹As for the things that you have learned and received
and heard and noticed in me,
do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of God, word of life. or The word of the Lord.

SECOND READING *Philippians = fih-LIP-ee-unz Euodia = you-OH-dee-uh*

Syntyche = SIN-tih-kih

Wonderful words of encouragement are found here. Those words are prefaced by three verses that set the letter in its historical context and will assist the reader in making the reading sound like a letter. Encourage the hearer, even as you, the reader, were encouraged by these words as you considered and rehearsed them.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying:

²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son.

³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet,

but they would not come.

⁴Again 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.’

⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business,

⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them.

⁷The 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.

⁹Go therefore into the main streets,

and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’

¹⁰Those 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,

¹²and he said to him,

‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’

And he was speechless.

¹³Then 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.’

¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

GOSPEL

Appropriate preparation for the proclamation of this gospel requires that the reader again be startled by the arrogance of the first invited, by the king’s declaration to “invite everyone,” and by his rage toward the man not wearing a wedding robe. Anything less will result in an unexceptional reading.