

## Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

The Lord will wipe away the tears from every cheek. *First Reading*

My head you have anointed with oil; my cup is overflowing.

*Psalms*

There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength. *Second Reading*

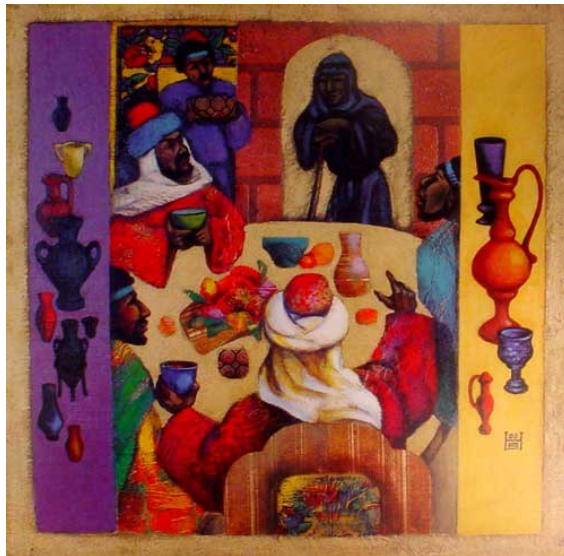
Father in heaven, the hand of your loving kindness powerfully yet gently guides all the moments of our day.

Go before us in our pilgrimage of life,  
anticipate our needs and prevent our falling.

Send your Spirit to unite us in faith,  
that sharing in your service,  
we may rejoice in your presence.

*Old Opening Prayer*

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:  
Isaiah 25: 6–10; Ps. 22 (23); Philippians 4: 12–14, 19–20; Matt. 22: 1–14



Nelly Bube (Kazakhstan),  
*Parable of the Wedding Feast*

The Lord  
will prepare  
for all peoples  
a banquet  
of rich food.

If you'd like to receive Prego by email each week, sign up at  
[www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com](http://www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com)

**ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM**



Twenty-eighth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Year A 11th October 2020

Come to the Wedding!

Images of banquets and feasting, of hospitality and generosity abound in this week's readings.

In the **First Reading**, the prophet Isaiah tells how God will prepare a banquet of rich food for all peoples. He will remove their sadness so that all will rejoice in the saving hand of God.

The **Psalms** echoes the theme of the care that God, as shepherd, has for all his people. It ends with an image of a banquet and generous hospitality.

St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, has utter confidence that God will give him strength as he faces hardship in prison. This is revealed through the generosity of others, who will be amply rewarded.

The **Gospel** from St Matthew offers us yet another parable of the Kingdom. The messianic banquet is offered to all, Jews and Gentiles – though some refuse and are rejected. All of us, good and bad alike, have only to respond to the invitation.

The wedding feast is not just a heavenly banquet: the Kingdom is in the here and now. What invitations, in the banquet of life, will come my way this week?

### Opening Prayer

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,  
at all times go before us and follow after  
and make us always determined  
to carry out good works.

### First Reading Isaiah 25: 6–10

On this mountain,  
the Lord of hosts will prepare for all peoples  
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.

I come to my place of prayer, and become aware of being in God's presence. I offer him my prayer today.  
How do I feel at the moment?  
Am I content, anxious, preoccupied, happy, depressed or ...?  
I know that God accepts me as I am, so I surrender this time to him.  
I read the passage carefully.  
What strikes me about the banquet God is preparing for us, for me?  
Is it that he wants to share a meal with me ...  
that this is the choicest of all meals ...  
that this is a joyful occasion banishing all sadness and grief ...?  
Is this promise for the future, for the after-life ...  
or is it being fulfilled in my life now?  
In what ways have I experienced, or am I experiencing, God's generosity?  
Maybe I can speak to the Lord asking to enjoy his many gifts.  
I close my prayer in a spirit of hope and gratitude, praying that I, too,  
may be generous to others.

### Gospel Matthew 22: 1–14 (shorter version)

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 despatched 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 on to the roads and collected together everyone they could find, bad and good alike; and the wedding hall was filled with guests.”

As I settle to prayer, I take the time to relax my body and gently breathe in the goodness and love of God.

When I am ready, I ask the Lord to reveal his word for me in this parable. I read it slowly a couple of times.

Jesus is in Jerusalem, frustrated by the attitude of the leaders of the people. But he is still calling them into relationship with him, to a joyful feast united with so many others.

How does this speak to me in my life?

I pause so that I can hear Jesus speaking to me.

If I feel challenged and hesitate to respond, what reasons do I give myself? Perhaps resenting the messenger ... or not wanting to be involved with others ...?

I give thanks to the Lord for calling me continuously, for the grace of belonging to a community, for the gift of the Eucharist ...

I may pray for greater acceptance, unity and harmony in various parts of the world.

I end my prayer in gratitude with a ‘*Glory be...*’