

Sunday August 2nd 2026

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Is. 55:1-3; Rom. 8:35, 37-39; Mt. 14:13-21)

THEME: AN INVITATION TO MESSIANIC BANQUET

Introduction: God invites all his thirsty children to come to the water and drink. He offers them grain, wine and milk at no cost. This invitation is first and foremost, a call to relationship. The actual thirst is the deep-seated longing in us for relationship and communion with God. Man's true fulfillment and satisfaction reside in this communion of love. In the absence of this communion, the human condition is characterized by thirst, hunger and alienation. It is in the New Testament that the Messianic feast is actualized. Hence, Jesus feeds the crowd in anticipation of the sacrament of holy Eucharist which unites humanity and divinity.

Come to the Water: This is a call to reverse Adam's journey. In Adam, humanity walked away from God and lost the original state of innocence. The invitation, "Come to the water" recalls the event of new creation; now actualized through the water of baptism. It is through baptism that the new life of grace is generated. At first creation, a river flowed from Eden to water the garden (Gen. 2:10). Therefore, the invitation calls us to that fountain of new life.

Jesus repeats the same invitation: "if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him'." (Jn. 7:37). This shows Jesus as the source of spiritual water that quenches our thirst. Ezekiel had foreseen water streaming from the right side of the temple, bringing new life wherever it flows (47:1-12). It was on the cross that the source of the river in Ezekiel's vision was revealed. When one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance, immediately there came blood and water (Jn. 19:34). This is the right side of the true temple which is the body of Jesus (Jn. 2:21). The vision of Ezekiel shows that "wherever the river goes ... there will be very many fish (47:9); which indicates that the river streaming from Calvary is the river of life.

Come receive grain and eat: This invitation anticipates the messianic banquet of finest wheat. Since bread is made of grain, Jesus fulfills this prophecy by choosing bread as the matter of the holy Eucharist. When the prophet invites us to come and eat grain, he alludes to Jesus who is the grain of wheat that must die in order to produce much fruit (Jn. 12:24). On Calvary, the grain dies and becomes our "daily bread", the Eucharistic meal.

Again, we are invited to drink wine and milk. The substances of wine and milk contain a spiritual message of restoration. Wine is the primary symbol of joy that accompanies God's presence. "Wine gladdens the heart" (Ps. 104:14). The subject matter here is the joy of salvation. Milk, on the other hand, signifies the innocence of little children. As St. Peter says: "As newborn infants, long for pure spiritual milk" (1Pet.2:2). This evokes the sense of original innocence that characterized our relationship before the fall. They suggest that the joy of salvation and grace of innocence

awaits all who respond to this invitation. **read the entire reflection at:**

<https://stpeterchurchaz.com/reflections/f/an-invitation-to-messianic-banquet>

Surprising Facts about the Vatican

The dome is meant to replicate the Pantheon

The Pantheon is the ancient temple dedicated to all the false gods. It was the conscious intention of Bramante, Michelangelo, and their team of artist, to parallel the Pantheon, and to "bring the pantheon" to the tomb of St. Peter. This was an overwhelming undertaking which required extensive pillars on the four corners of the dome, and a series of twin domes, with the external dome holding the internal dome in place by a systematic control of weight and a series of detention chains. The task was completed by the Renaissance masters, who successfully "brought the Pantheon" to St. Peter's tomb, where the shadows of the false gods met the fullness of faith in the Galilean fisherman's solemn proclamation to the Lords Jesus:

By Fr. Jeffery Kirby, S.T.L.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16)

SUNDAY MASS INTENTIONS

9:00 am Mass +Felntcher Paclar by Joy Merriweather

11:00 am Mass Anniversary – Michael & Dorata Thieme;
+Judith Garcia Gonzalez by Maria del Carmen Garcia

DAILY MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE COMING WEEK

Monday 9:00am +Beverly Lewandowski by Matthew Lewandowski

Tuesday 9:00am +Poor Souls in Purgatory by Joe Turner

Wednesday 9:00am +Margaret Zummo

Thursday 9:00am Tryka Grandchildren by Linda Tryka

Friday 9:00am +John & Jean Hall by St. Peter's Parish

9:30am Eucharistic Adoration

PRAYER TREE - LET US PRAY FOR:

Laurie Becker, Elijah Baca, Joe Barraza, David Baca, Fallon Walker, Judy Bragg, Maria Archuleta, Joe Warne, Larry Tyrrell, Tom Malone, Eva Orona, David & Geri Silva, Jeannette Davis, Angela Gonzales, Joe and Margie Tapia, Bernice & Roxanne Chavez, Lilly Hill, Sophie Pena, Juan Quevedo, Lydia Gonzalez, Sophie Montoya.

TO MAKE PRAYER REQUESTS Please contact the church office at (928) 333-4423. Leave a message, if there is no answer, please include your name and phone number with information.