

# **Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home**

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 11, 2020

Come Correct!  
“Put on Christ!”

Dorothy Day, who was completely given to God and to God’s poor, once said, “Even the lowest, most depraved, we must see Christ in them and love them to folly. When we suffer from dirt, lack of privacy, heat and cold, coarse food, let us rejoice” (quoted by James Forest in *Love Is the Measure*, Paulist Press, New York: 1986). Day had learned, as Paul did (in our second reading), to make the best of every circumstance. Surely she could also say with Paul, “I can do all things in him who strengthens me” (Phil 4:13).

Dorothy Day died on Nov. 29, 1980. Day’s funeral Mass was attended by priests and nuns, but also by bag ladies, addicts, beggars, the homeless and all those other poor ones in whom she saw the face of God. Anyone looking on at those gathered for the feast in today’s Gospel, and on those who came together for Dorothy Day’s funeral, might characterize these groups as a motley crew. And so they were; and so WE are – a community of diverse members called together by God and graced with the gifts and ability to care for one another.

When Isaiah gives us a picture of God’s feast on the peak, he wants our mouths to water. Picture chocolate cake, lemon meringue pie, creamy pastries, fresh fish, roasted lamb and beef on the spit, berries and cherries, milk and honey. The wine selection is like no other — aged to perfection. God’s great festival takes place on the mountaintop, Jerusalem. The whole world is invited to enjoy the best creation has to offer. God prepares this feast for people who have had little to rejoice or celebrate in the recent past.

This is God’s surprise party for humanity, specially planned for people who have been trapped in chaos and tragedy. Natural disasters and war have left them devastated. They’ve also failed to live their own ideals. According to Isaiah, they arrive veiled in mourning garb. This party is the last thing they expect.

Then they encounter God. Whatever their conception of the Almighty, they hardly expected God to hurry out like a mother and wipe the tears from their faces. But that's what God did. They came, scarred from their battles, guilty of everything human beings could imagine, and God invited them in. When no penalty could compensate for their wrong, God made no reproach. The whole earth was coming under the judgment of love. Nothing less.

In today's Gospel, we hear the third parable Jesus tells during his last week on Earth, in which he bedazzles the crowd with this tale he invites them to imagine. A king throws a wedding feast and gets no RSVPs. He sends out emissaries to the VIPs and they decline to come, and some even abuse the emissaries. Then the king casts a dragnet to scoop up anybody.

Moral standing is hardly a qualification for entry into the banquet as Jesus made quite clear with the words, "bad and good alike." The only difference between the banqueters and those gnashing their teeth in the dark was the partygoers' whole-hearted acceptance of the invitation. In the process, he gives his verdict on the situation: "Those who were invited were not worthy to come."

Who are the chosen? They are the ones willing to receive God's surprising and free offers. Their religious role or social position means so little that the higher the rank, the less likely they are to be at the banquet. What makes someone worthy? The unworthy are the ones who refused the invitation. The worthy must, therefore, be the people who were happy to receive a free meal. All that mattered was that they showed up.

But there was one hold out. Somebody came in who didn't belong. A fellow crashed the party not wanting to be a guest, not wanting to put on his best. The intruder didn't wear a wedding garment. In other words, whatever he was doing there, he didn't come to celebrate with the king and his family. He attended the event, but he had nothing to do with its purpose. He couldn't be allowed to stay; his attitude was a contaminant. Being at this celebration was an all or nothing affair. Anyone who showed up but didn't want to take part, was like vinegar in a milkshake — he curdled the atmosphere. The

garment required by all is the willingness to embrace and live according to the Gospel. That's the ticket to the beatific banquet.

**Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home**  
28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Prelude:** Sing along with James Cleveland and the Mighty Clouds of Joy in “Plenty Good Room”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKym5i8qmB8>

**Leader:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All:** And with your spirit.

**Penitential Act**

Lord Jesus, you are a sign of God's great generosity:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you call us to respond to God's lavish invitation:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you help us to live in abundance and in need:

Lord, have mercy.

**Opening Prayer**

God of goodness and kindness,  
you invite all peoples to the banquet  
and offer them a feast beyond compare.

Give us your saving grace  
to keep unstained the robe of our baptism  
until that day when you welcome us  
to heaven's joyful table.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God for ever and ever.

Let the church say – Amen.

Listen to “My Soul's Been Anchored” – Spiritual arranged by Moses Hogan and sung by Wicker Park Choral Singers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpHCwl2NCVI&list=PLGAUHgSJ-dnhTj78qcViFasPdsuaWmjTb> Then move into reading today's Scriptures.

**Readings for Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
October 11, 2020**

**1st Reading – Isaiah 25:6-10A**

<sup>6</sup> On this mountain the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.<sup>7</sup> On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations;<sup>8</sup> he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken.<sup>9</sup> On that day it will be said: “Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!”<sup>10A</sup> For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

**Psalm 23:1-3A, 3B-4, 5, 6**

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

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In verdant pastures he gives me repose;<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>  
beside restful waters he leads me;<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

<sup>3A</sup> he refreshes my soul.<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

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

<sup>3B</sup> He guides me in right paths<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>for his name’s sake.<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk in the dark valley<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

I fear no evil; for you are at my side<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

with your rod and your staff<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>that give me courage.<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

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

<sup>5</sup> You spread the table before me<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

in the sight of my foes;<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

you anoint my head with oil;<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

my cup overflows.<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

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

<sup>6</sup> Only goodness and kindness follow me<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

all the days of my life;<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>for years to come.<sup>[L] [SEP]</sup>

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

## **2nd Reading – Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20**

Brothers and sisters:<sup>12</sup> I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance. In every circumstance and in all things I have learned the secret of being well fed and of going hungry, of living in abundance and of being in need. <sup>13</sup> I can do all things in him who strengthens me.<sup>14</sup> Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.<sup>19</sup> My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.<sup>20</sup> To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus again in reply spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people in parables, saying,

<sup>2</sup> “The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.

<sup>3</sup> He dispatched his servants to summon the invited guests to the feast, but they refused to come.

<sup>4</sup> A second time he sent other servants, saying, “Tell those invited: “Behold, I have prepared my banquet, my calves and fattened cattle are killed, and everything is ready; come to the feast.”“

<sup>5</sup> Some ignored the invitation and went away, one to his farm, another to his business.

<sup>6</sup> The rest laid hold of his servants, mistreated them, and killed them.

<sup>7</sup> The king was enraged and sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

<sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, “The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come.

<sup>9</sup> Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find.’

<sup>10</sup> The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup> But when the king came in to meet the guests, he saw a man there not dressed in a wedding garment.

<sup>12</sup> The king said to him, ‘My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?’ But he was reduced to silence.

<sup>13</sup> Then the king said to his attendants, ‘Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and

grinding of teeth.’

<sup>14</sup> Many are invited, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.....Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Reflection Prompts:**

First, sing along with “Come to the Table of Mercy” presented by the St. Columba Choir of Oakland, California, under the direction of its arranger, Rawn Harbor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oD4fBVTAblk>

- Why do you think the banquet image was an effective way for biblical authors to describe the reign of God?
- How do you “put on Christ” in your life?
- Does the ever-widening circle of people around the banquet table give us guidance about societal issues, such as attitudes about immigration, differently abled people, the poor and the imprisoned and paroled?

### **Meditation Prompts:**

First, listen to W. Clifford Petty with the Montgomery, Alabama Resurrection Choir sing “If I Can Help Somebody”:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9T85n2Wt1h4>

- Ask God for guidance on how you can help somebody this week.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – October 11, 2020

TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

**Presider:** Let us pray for expansive hearts and inclusive spirits embracing all God’s people with our concern.

### **Worship Leader**

1. For our beloved parish, that we may be a welcoming community to all and a visible sign of inclusiveness. We pray:  
**Shepherd us, O God.** (ASSEMBLY RESPONDS: **Shepherd us, O God.**)

2. For all those in the path of Hurricane Delta, that Our Lady of Prompt Succor will intercede for their protection and assistance. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
3. For all who govern across the world, that they may be see injustices and inequities and then move to alleviate them. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
4. For voters not to be suppressed or deterred in the balloting now underway. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
5. For prudence and wisdom in the management of the pandemic and of the finding vaccines and medications to address the novel corona virus. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
6. For our Stephen Ministry, its leaders, and all Care Team members and receivers here at Lourdes. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
7. For long-term commitments by individuals and institutions to erase Racism and White Supremacy in American society. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
8. For all our loved ones in the military and their families, that they be returned to us safely and experience a welcoming community. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
9. For those seeking gainful employment to find jobs with living wages and humane benefits. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
10. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those listed in our bulletin, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**
11. For all the dead, that they see God face to face, especially Patricia Flynn Stout and Thomas E. Linnenbrink for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**

- 12.** Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Shepherd us, O God.**

**Presider:** Loving God, help us to respond more fully to your life-giving invitations, and order our steps in your Word. We pray this in the name of Jesus. LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN!

Sing or recite “The Lord’s Prayer.” Then, hear “Worthy God” by M. Roger Holland:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXpgSVP7g38>

### **Closing Prayer**

Let your tireless grace accompany us, Lord God,  
let it go before us and follow after,  
that we may never slacken in our resolve  
to pursue the practice of good works.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God forever and ever. Let the Church say.....AMEN.

### **Closing Hymn**

Sing along with Mahalia Jackson – “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Mb0XA2BDx0>