

Our readings today offer an incredible invitation: Come to the feast; the banquet is prepared!

In the first reading, Isaiah paints the beautiful picture of God's providential care for a people experiencing the worst of times. It is God who provides the banquet with rich juicy food and pure choice wine. Death will be destroyed; tears wiped away. This is the God who saves them. They recognize this and rejoice!

In Matthew's Gospel Jesus speaks of the reign of heaven as a wedding feast. In this parable, those who are invited are not ready to accept. They have other things to do. Their hearts are elsewhere. Those who are not expecting an invitation find themselves faced with choices. Will they go? And if they do, will their hearts be open to live life as God's own?

These stories remind us that the honor of our presence is requested at this banquet of God's love once again. The response seems obvious. Yet, knowing how the story unfolds, how will you respond today? Will you be ready? What might you need to respond more fully, more faithfully to God's invitation?

Today, let us be grateful for our invitation to the Table of Christ. May we be clothed in the peace, joy and love that is Jesus Christ.