

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Clothed in the Righteousness of Christ, We Partake of His Wedding Feast



Background: In the last weeks before Christ's crucifixion, Christ tried to describe God's plan of salvation, and how we are saved through parables. This week he compares the Kingdom of heaven to a wedding feast. In this case, the master plans a big wedding feast for all of God's chosen people (Israel). But no one was coming. So he sent His servants (prophets) out to call people to the banquet, but they were ignored, or in some cases killed. So He sent his servants to call the uninvited (Gentiles) and a joyful wedding feast occurred except for one person who did not put on a wedding feast robe (individual who redefined what is acceptable to be saved) and that person was thrown out of the wedding feast (sent to hell). These are harsh words for all who do not accept Christ saving death on the cross as paying the price for our sins. But Christ wanted to make it clear—Christ is the way, the truth, and the life that makes us right with God. No other process works. So let us clothe ourselves sinless in the Blood of the lamb, so we can attend the big wedding feast in heaven,

The Weddings Feast Pieter the Elder Bruegel 1567. The Lessons: Isaiah 25:6–9, Philippians

4:4–13, & Matthew 22:1–14 By His cross and resurrection, the Lord has swallowed up death forever, and by His Gospel He “will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth” (Is. 25:8). Therefore, “let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation” (Is. 25:9). On the mountain of the Lord of hosts — in His Church on earth, as in the kingdom of heaven — He has made “for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine” (Is. 25:6). It is the royal “wedding feast” of the Son of God, “and everything is ready” (Matt. 22:1, 4). Thus, His servants are sent into the highways and byways to invite and gather as many as they find, “both good and bad,” to fill the wedding hall with guests (Matt. 22:8–10). In Holy Baptism, He clothes them all in the “wedding garment” of His own perfect righteousness (Matt. 22:11). Therefore, “do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God,” and “rejoice in the Lord always” (Phil. 4:4–6).