

Parish Meeting Prayers

For use in October, 2023

Introduction

Leader The gift of faith in Jesus, as sent by God, is key in Matthew's Gospel. How each of us responds to this invitation to faith and living it daily leads us to eternal life.

Opening Prayer

All Saving God, your gift of faith in Christ Jesus demands our response. Gift us also with your grace to live our faith daily in word and action. We pray through Jesus in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Word of God Matthew 22:1-10

Reader A reading from the Gospel of Matthew (Pause for silent reflection)

Optional Discuss these questions in two's or three's. *The reading is on the reverse side.*

1. In pondering the gift of faith in this passage of Matthew's Gospel, what is your response?
2. God invites the good and bad to his banquet. What are the consequences to us of that same invitation today?

Response (from Matthew 22:1-10)

- Side 1** "He said to his servants, 'The feast is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy to come.'"
- Side 2** Jesus has invited us to the feast by our baptism. May we accept the invitation by how we live our lives.
- Side 1** "Go out, therefore, into the main roads and invite to the feast whomever you find."
- Side 2** God's invitation to faith is offered to everyone, everywhere, at all times.
- Side 1** "The servants went out into the streets and gathered all they found, bad and good alike, and the hall was filled with guests."
- Side 2** Since we have been invited to God's feast, may we accept the invitation and celebrate with humility and gratitude.

Petitions Individuals add intentions to remember here.

Closing Prayer

God of mercy, forgive us the times we take for granted the gift of faith. Remind us often to thank you daily for this gift extended to all. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Parish Operations and Mission Planning



Matthew 22:1-10

Jesus spoke to the chief priests and elders of the people
in parables, saying,

“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king
who gave a wedding feast for his son.

He dispatched his servants
to summon the invited guests to the feast,
but they refused to come.

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.”’

Some ignored the invitation and went away,
one to his farm, another to his business.

The rest laid hold of his servants,
mistreated them, and killed them.

The king was enraged and sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, ‘The feast is ready,
but those who were invited were not worthy to come.

Go out, therefore, into the main roads
and invite to the feast whomever you find.’

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