

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
15 October 2023 – Year A

“Whomsoever you find invite to the wedding.”

Something to Think About

God constantly invites us into a closer relationship. We need a patient, open, listening heart to know God better. Through prayer, we can listen to God's invitation to life and to love.

The Story

In Jesus' time, invitations to an important feast or party didn't include a specific time - when all the preparations were complete, the servants would be sent out to tell the invited guests that they could come in. In this story, the people who were invited chose not to come, so people were welcomed in from the streets instead. The people who were invited to the wedding but refused to attend in today's story, represent the religious leaders - they were invited to believe in the Messiah, but they refused. Those who accepted – the people who came from the street corners - represent people from all over the world who believed in Jesus.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:1-10

Jesus used this story to teach the people:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a king gave a wedding banquet for his son. The king sent some servants to tell the invited guests to come to the banquet, but the guests refused. He sent other servants to say to the guests,

'The banquet is ready! My cattle and prize calves have all been prepared. Everything is ready. Come to the banquet!'

"But the guests did not pay any attention.

Some of them left for their farms, and some went to their places of business. Others grabbed the servants, beat them up, and killed them.

"This made the king so furious that he sent an army to kill those murderers and burn down their city. Then he said to the servants,

'It is time for the wedding banquet, and the invited guests don't deserve to come. Go out to the street corners and tell everyone you meet to come to the banquet.'

They went out on the streets and brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike. And the banquet room was filled with guests."

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

Video

Click to watch the video.

[The Parable of the Great Banquet](#)



Group Discussion

In this story, the invitation was to come and be a part of a welcoming and celebrating community. Our families, schools and parishes are communities. Are they welcoming? What can you do in your communities to welcome others?

Is your community marked by the spirit of joy? What can you do to bring joy and laughter into your community?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will care for people of the world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for those who hunger for food, freedom or courage. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for people who are too busy to care for themselves or for others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for faith to respond to God's invitation. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will be welcoming of all people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



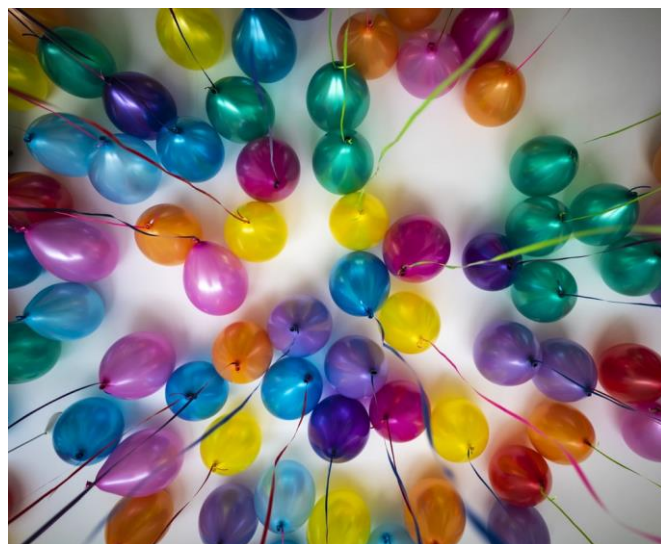
Dear Jesus,
Give us ears to hear and eyes to see
the ways that God speaks to us in
our lives. Help us to spend time in
prayer listening and talking to God.
Amen.

Group Activity

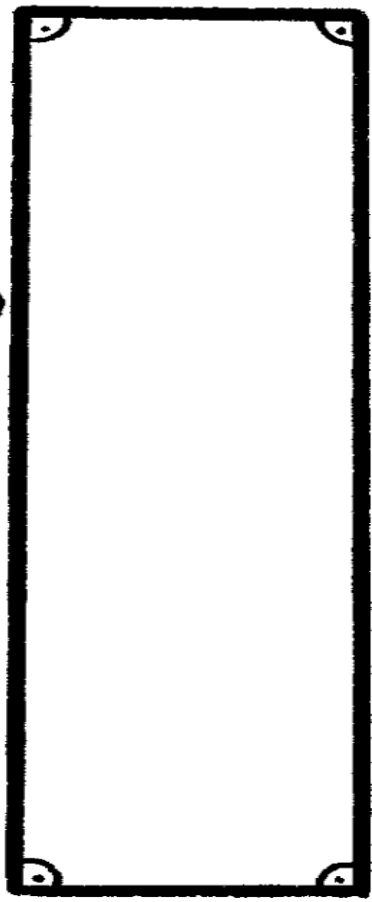
Invitation to a Feast

You will need: one template printed on paper or cardboard double sided and flipped on SHORT edge, coloured pencils, glitter or other decorations as desired.

- 1) Invite children to imagine they are having a feast or party and to think about who they would like to invite.
- 2) Assist children to fold the invitation card in half.
- 3) Invite children to add colour and write the name of the person they would like to invite to their special gathering.



You are
Invited!

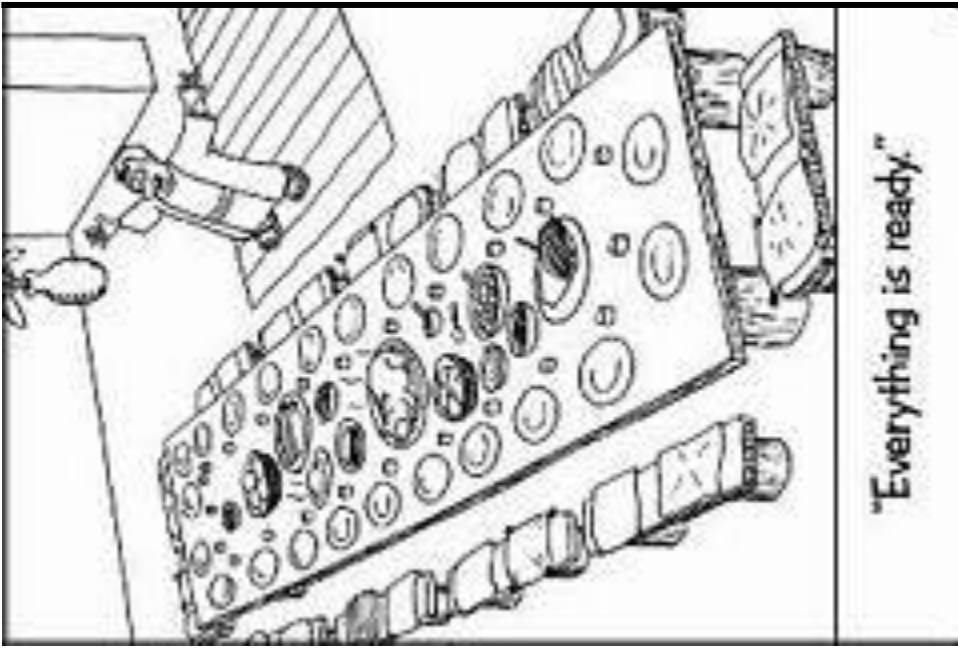


Dear

Please come to my special feast.

I hope you can join in the fun!

From



**A KING HAD A BIG PARTY.
'GO OUT INTO THE STREET', HE SAID,
'AND TELL EVERYONE TO COME TO THE
FEAST. EVERYONE'S WELCOME!**

DRAW ALL THE PEOPLE SITTING AT TABLE.

DRAW THE FOOD AND DRINK ON THE TABLE.

