



ST PAULS MEDIA **pastoral ministry**
AMBUHAY
MISSALETTE

FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION
SYNOD 2021-2023



Year 37 No. 14

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) — Green
Extreme Poverty Day | Sunday for Cultures

October 15, 2023

We are reminded this Sunday of the importance of synodality within our Catholic faith and the abundance of God's grace. This is a day of reflection and action, as we also commemorate Extreme Poverty Day and celebrate Sunday for Cultures.

The First Reading from the prophet Isaiah presents a messianic banquet that the Lord will provide for all peoples that goes beyond earthly nourishment; it is a magnificent feast of rich food and choice wines, symbolizing the abundance of God's grace and blessings. This image reminds us that God's Kingdom is open to all, regardless of social status, cultural background, or material wealth. Synodality is about inclusivity of God's Kingdom when we recognize that everyone is invited to the banquet. Each one has a unique contribution to make in the Church, and everyone's participation is essential in building up the Body of Christ.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul writes from his own experience of both scarcity and bounty: "I know how to live in humble circumstances; I know also how to live with abundance." Paul's understanding of synodality is rooted in his deep trust in God's providence. He teaches us that in all circumstances, we can find strength and contentment through Christ who gives us the grace to endure and the ability to share our blessings with others. This spirit of sharing and solidarity is at the heart of synodality, as we journey together, supporting one another in our joys and struggles.

Finally, in the Gospel from Matthew, Jesus tells the parable of the wedding banquet. It is a story that highlights the invitation extended to all—"Enlarge the space for your tent" (Is 54:2)—but also

SYNODALITY AND THE EUCHARIST: INCLUSIVITY AND BOUNTY



by Fr. Vladimir Echalas, SOLT

the responsibility to respond with openness and readiness. The man who enters the banquet without the proper wedding garment represents those who are unwilling to embrace the values of the Kingdom, to be transformed by the grace of God. Synodality challenges us to examine our hearts and to ensure that we are clothed in the virtues of love, humility, and service as we respond to God's invitation.

As we reflect on these readings, we are challenged to embrace synodality in our own lives and in our faith communities. Synodality calls us to recognize the dignity and worth of each person, to foster a spirit of inclusivity and hospitality, and to work together for the common good. It calls us to build bridges instead of walls, to

listen attentively to one another's perspectives, and to discern the will of God as a community.

On this Sunday for Cultures, let us celebrate the rich diversity that exists within the Church and society and embrace the beauty of different cultures as a source of enrichment and unity. Let us remember that synodality allows us to draw on the wisdom and experiences of people from various backgrounds, ensuring that the voice of each member is heard, fostering a deeper understanding of one another and strengthening the bonds of communion.

As we commemorate Extreme Poverty Day, we are confronted with a reality that affects millions of people in our country and around the globe. We are called to respond to the call for justice and compassion, recognizing that each person, regardless of socio-economic status, bears the image and likeness of God. Let us be mindful of our call to be in solidarity with those who are in the existential peripheries, the marginalized and impoverished. Synodality urges us to address the root causes of poverty, to advocate for justice, and to work towards creating a world where all can experience the fullness of life that God intends for us.

Every time we gather around the table of the Eucharist we celebrate here and now the messianic banquet. May we recognize the dignity and worth of every person, especially the poorest of the poor. May we engage in dialogue with one another, appreciating the richness of our diverse cultures, and finding unity in our shared faith. And let us respond to God's invitation with open hearts, allowing ourselves to be transformed by his love and mercy. Amen.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 130[129]:3–4)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But with you is found forgiveness, O God of Israel.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These [or similar words] may be used to address the assembly.)

P—This Sunday's Gospel speaks about a parable centered on the image of banquet. God is the king who invites everyone to the feast of his kingdom. Many have been called to his feast and yet many also refuse to respond to the invitation.

Today is Indigenous People's Sunday and Extreme Poverty Day. As we remember the struggles of indigenous people and the sufferings of our brothers and sisters because of poverty, may we have the courage to lessen their burdens and fight for their rights and dignity.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

P—You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works.

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.

All—Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading

(Is 25:6–10a) *(Sit)*

Isaiah pictures the messianic banquet where God will satisfy the longings of the human heart and where there will be no more death, no more sorrow.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, the web that is woven over all nations; 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. 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!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 23)

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

Sr. M.C.A. Parco, FSP

G
I shall live in the

Em D
house of the LORD all the

D7 G
days of my life.

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want./ In verdant pastures he gives me repose;/ beside restful waters he leads me;/ he refreshes my soul. **(R)**

2. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake./ Even though I walk in the dark valley/ I fear no evil; for you are at my side/ with your rod and your staff/ that give me courage. **(R)**

3. You spread the table before me/ in the sight of my foes;/ you anoint my head with oil;/ my cup overflows. **(R)**

4. Only goodness and kindness follow me/ all the days of my life;/ and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD/ for years to come. **(R)**

Second Reading

(Phil 4:12–14, 19–20)

Paul thanks the Christians of Philippi for their kindness to him. Although he can cope with any situation, Paul sees their concern for him as their sharing in the magnificent riches of Christ.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS:
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. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Still, it was kind of you to share in my distress.

My God will fully supply whatever you need, in accord with his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father, glory forever and ever. Amen.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (Cf. Eph 1:17–18)
(Stand)

All—Alleluia, alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know what is the hope that belongs to our call. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mt 22:1–10) *(Short Form)*

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS again in reply 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.”

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily *(Sit)*

Profession of Faith *(Stand)*

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.)* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P—As we anticipate the coming of God’s Kingdom and

share in his holy and eternal banquet, let us pray to the Father that we may be filled with the spirit of patience and readiness to walk together as a Church in this ever-changing world. Full of confidence and trust, we pray:

R—Father, hear our prayer.

C—May our Church leaders be examples of living out poverty by turning from their luxurious lifestyle and responding creatively to the cries of our poor brothers and sisters. We pray: **(R)**

C—May our government and civil leaders resist their dissipated life and pursue whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, and holy. We pray: **(R)**

C—May those who continue to abuse our indigenous people by their acts of corruption, injustice, and violence be led to the path of repentance and conversion. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we become responsible caretakers of the earth and share our material things with those who are in dire need. We pray: **(R)**

C—May the Lord keep in safety all travelers, prosper the works of our hands, comfort the sick and the suffering, and welcome into paradise our faithful departed. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Hear our prayer, loving Father, and grant us the graces we ask, as we anticipate the coming of your Kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.



Presentation of the Gifts
(Stand)

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the

sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—Accept, O Lord, the prayers of your faithful with the sacrificial offerings, that, through these acts of devotedness, we may pass over to the glory of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface VII: Salvation through the obedience of Christ

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.
P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
(Kneel)

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULES

CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM (Dec 21 - Jan 2, 2024)
Jordan & Israel with pilgrimage chaplain

JOURNEYS TO THE LAND OF THE BIBLE (Jan 30 - Feb 12, 2024)
Egypt-Israel-Jordan with Fr. Serafin "Perry" Peralta C.M.

AFFORDABLE SERIES:
WALKING WITH MARY IN THE HOLY LAND (Mar 2 - 10, 2024)
with pilgrimage chaplain

AFFORDABLE SERIES:
A FAITH & FUN MARIAN PILGRIMAGE (Mar 2 - 13, 2024)
with Fr. Jay Dador

ADRIATIC COAST WITH MEDJUGORJE (Apr 18 - May 1, 2024)
Austria - Slovenia - Bosnia Hercegovina - Croatia - Montenegro
with Fr. Omer Prieto

CONTACT US FOR FULL DETAILS AND SCHEDULES.

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Call or Viber us:

+ (63) 919-0736359, + (63) 919-0736315,

+ (63) 999-9935580, + (63) 917-5616440

Landline: + (632) 89290144 or 89290155

Email: join@journeys.com.ph

www.journeys.com.ph



P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Cf. Ps 34[33]:11)

The rich suffer want and go hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

We entreat your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as you feed us with the nourishment which comes from the most holy Body and Blood of your Son, so you may make us sharers of his divine nature.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

Turn your people to you with all their heart, O Lord, we pray, for you protect even those who go astray, but when they serve you with undivided heart, you sustain them with still greater care.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—Go forth, the Mass is ended.
All—Thanks be to God.

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