

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 23

Response: “You are my shepherd; you are my friend. I want to follow you always, just to follow my friend.”

Today’s readings focus on the great banquet as the symbolic image of the reign of God.

- There will be a time when we sit at the table and enjoy the richness of God’s gifts.
- All will be joy and it will last forever.
- On earth we are invited to the eucharistic banquet. Will we accept the invitation?

Summary of the Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10a (*This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.*)

In today’s first reading, Isaiah said to the people, “God is going to give a big banquet, a feast with all kinds of good food.” The feast will be on God’s holy mountain. All evil that hurt people will be destroyed. Death will be destroyed. He will wipe away our tears. God will destroy death and forgive all sins. God said this would happen and it will. Then the people will say, “This is the God for whom we have been waiting, he will save us.” This will be salvation and we will stay with God on his holy mountain forever.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-10 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today Jesus told a parable to the chief priests and the leaders. This parable is about a king who gave a big feast for his son’s wedding. The king invited many people to the celebration. But when the servants went to get them, they would not come. So, the king said to his servants, “Go and tell them that the feast is ready, and I have prepared a wonderful dinner for them. **Everything is ready; come to the feast.**” But the people didn’t care. They continued to do everyday things, staying at home, caring for their farms, and businesses. Some even hurt the servants that came for the king. The king was angry and sent soldiers to punish the people. He told the servants the people who were invited were not good enough. He told them to go into the town and invite anyone they saw. So, the servants went out and invited good people and bad people and soon the wedding celebration was filled.

Helping the Children to Reflect:

We are called to the celebration! Jesus invites us each week to come to Mass, to the Lord's table to receive the eucharist. Our parable today is about Jesus inviting us to live with him and celebrate with him. Some didn't want to come, so he invited others, especially sinners. They were the people who were happy to come.

Reflection Activity: Planning a big Party

- What food would you prepare?
- What decorations would you make?
- What games would you have ready?
- Who would you invite?
- Would you have fun planning the party?

Now tell the children what if on the day of the big party none of your friends came.

- How would you feel?
- Would you think they were really your friends?

Every Sunday, just before communion, the priest says,
"Happy are we who are invited to this banquet."