

Formed in Prayer



Let us be still
and ask the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Dear Father, be with us as we pray.
Open our ears to hear your Word in the Gospel.
Unite us in faith, hope and love as we pray together.
Send your Holy Spirit to inspire
and sustain us in our mission.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gospel

Luke 14:1 , 7-14

On a sabbath day Jesus had gone for a meal to the house of one of the leading Pharisees; and they watched him closely. He then told the guests a parable, because he had noticed how they picked the places of honour. He said this, 'When someone invites you to a wedding feast, do not take your seat in the place of honour. A more distinguished person than you may have been invited, and the person who invited you both may come and say, "Give up your place to this man." And then, to your embarrassment, you would have to go and take the lowest place. No; when you are a guest, make your way to the lowest place and sit there, so that, when your host comes, he may say, "My friend, move up higher." In that way, everyone with you at the table will see you honoured. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the man who humbles himself will be exalted.'

Then he said to his host, 'When you give a lunch or a dinner, do not ask your friends, brothers, relations or rich neighbours, for fear they repay your courtesy by inviting you in return. No; when you have a party, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; that they cannot pay you back means that you are fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

*What words or phrases struck you in Sunday's Gospel reading?
What might God be prompting you to consider or inviting you to do in and through the Gospel?*

Reflection

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

How often do we come before the Lord on a Sunday, humbled and feeling unworthy to enter into the mystery of the Eucharist? We sit down, we take our place. Without fail, as we are invited into the beauty of the Lord's Supper, we hear Jesus whisper, "Come friend, move up to a better place". We move closer, lifted by the love and sacrifice of Jesus, to receive communion, honoured and exalted in the presence of the Lord and each other. We are reminded in this Gospel reading that there is a grace in our humbleness and that God, through unconditional love and a desire to be close to us, will always call us forward to be in communion with Jesus and with others. We are also reminded in this Gospel that it is our mission as baptised disciples to seek the opportunity to find others who are humbled before God and invite them into His presence and into communion with all. *(Luke Maher, Catholic Education, Canberra and Goulburn)*

Prayer

Lord, we come to receive you,
not alone but in communion with others who choose to humble themselves before you.
We pray that as you call us to be in your presence
we remember to invite those who have not yet known you
and those who seek your healing hand.
Amen.