



The Shepherd's Voice

August 27, 2013

By Fr. Joe Rees

“The Jesus Invitation”

“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”—Jesus. Luke 14: 13-14.

Jesus was invited to dine at the house of a rather rich ruler of the Pharisees. The Pharisees were looking for a way to condemn Him. Jesus of course knows exactly what they are doing and tells a parable about being invited to a wedding feast. He teaches us a great lesson about humility in His main point: “For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”(vs. 11) He says to the Pharisee who invited Him to dinner, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid.”(vs. 12) Again, Jesus is teaching about humility. What purpose was the invitation? For you to be repaid at an equal or greater benefit? Jesus keeps in mind and expresses the Kingdom of God values. In God's Kingdom there are no ‘haves or have-nots’. It is a classless society. But, all who are there are made ‘just’ by Jesus’ blood. They are justified, brought into proper alignment with Jesus, and made righteous. So the heart of Jesus is in each and every person who is called ‘just’. For believers in Jesus now, we need to remember the Jesus-heart in us. Who will we associate with then? I’ve heard people say in the past at other churches, ‘we really don’t want that kind of people being in our church!’ This indicates that they do not understand the ‘Jesus Invitation’.

If a person believes in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior who are we to judge their outward appearances. Yes, they may be poor, lame, or blind, or not of our socio-economic strata (sounds haughty ha?), but they have Jesus in their hearts. Every Sunday we hold a feast. It's the Lord's Feast. We throw a banquet each time we celebrate Holy Eucharist. Who is invited to partake in this receiving of the bread and cup? It's those who are believers, who have the Jesus-heart in them. That means also they are members of the Body of Christ and heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven, just like us. Thus, there are no real differences as all of us who are heaven-bound, do not have any first class accommodations while others ride in the coach class. In a sense, we all have ‘first-class’! Then, we ought to treat each other that way.

The Holy Eucharist or Communion is given by our host, Jesus. It's His banquet and we are His guests. At His banquet we need to show up with joy and gratitude. The rest of the passage moves on to verse 24 (outside of our reading for this Sunday). Therein the Lord speaks of those who make excuses and don't come to the banquet...this and that keep them from going. Jesus says then, “Go out into the highways and hedges and *compel* people to come in, that My house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.” This again supports His teaching on humility. The adage applies—“some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”(13:30) God is compelling us to give the Jesus Invitation!

I'm thinking of what our church at Grace is all about. Isn't it to invite people to Jesus' banquet of life with Him?! Jesus says, ‘go out and compel them’. Shouldn't we do so? The

darkening news of this world seems to beg the question, “Jesus is calling us to make every effort to bring others into His banquet! Are we?” I believe He is! Let’s continue to pray for the progress of “My Hope America” (if you haven’t seen the DVD, please let me know you want to and I’ll arrange a time). Let’s also turn out in mass for September 8th at 9:00AM for the complete parish membership celebration and picture. I will also have a small book entitled—“I Am A Church Member” by Thom S. Rainer that will be available at the book table. This will be a loaner book so read it in one day (short) and bring it back to church for someone else to have. Everyone who calls themselves a member of the church needs to read this book. If we need more we’ll buy more but for now let’s pass it on. On that day we will bless the Lord and stand for Him and make our promise that we are members of His Body and that we have answered the call to be at His banquet.

Then, let us be recharged with zeal to go out into the ‘highways and hedges’, ‘the streets and the lanes’, ‘bring in the poor of spirit, the lame from the culture, and the blind to Jesus’. Let’s invite them with the Jesus-heart in us. Let’s give them the Jesus Invitation that they will never forget, and eternally benefit from, in making their decision to follow Jesus. We too will say with the man who sat next to Jesus, “Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the Kingdom of God!”

Love in Christ,
Fr. Joe

P.S. We’re having a Rummage Sale on Sept. 7th starting at 7:30 in the morning. It’s not a banquet but we will be having some foods, some free hotdogs for guests, maybe some of your baked goodies will magically appear. Why? Not to get money...no! To invite some folks to the best banquet in town!

Sunday Servers this week...

September 1, 2013	15 Pentecost	8:30 a.m. Service	10:15 a.m. Service
First Reader	Deuteronomy 4:1-9	Robbin Gates	Judy Gillease
Psalm Reader	Psalm 112	John Lipnicke	Jani Dubski
Second Reader	Hebrews 3:1-8	Myrna Lipnicke	Ann Fox
Intercessor		Acolyte	Acolyte
Lay Euch. Ministers		Judy Gillease, Doug Hall	Richard Reider, Jani Dubski
Acolytes		Thor Strom	Frances S (C); Kai C (T1); Kalani C (T2)
Welcomers		Maureen Green, Paula Sholly	Cheryl Martel, Paula Sholly
Ushers		Dick Sholly, David Green	Ted Vallas, JR Fox, April Knowles
Vestry Person of Day	Richard Reider		
Healing Ministers		Jan Simon, Rudy Theobald	Ann Fox, Donna Sandner
Announcer		Chris Corey	JR Fox
Counters			Cline Handy & Michael Murphy

Rummage Sale – September 7th

7:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Clean out your closets, your garage, your cupboards of all that gently used stuff you haven’t seen in a long time and you don’t need. Bring it to the church on Sept. 6th between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. so our volunteers can price and organize everything for early the next morning. Proceeds will go to the children’s ministries. This is a great opportunity to clean up some of your space and to support one of our most important ministries.

Sunday, September 8th
We celebrate our
2nd anniversary
in this facility.

Sunday School and
Children's Church begin on
Sunday, September 15th
during the 10:15 service.

Sunday, September 8th
Membership Sunday
Come to the 9:00 a.m.
Second Sunday
Combined Service and
join in the group picture
in front of the altar.

Sunday, September 15th
Ministry Fair
Ministry leaders – make a
display for your ministry.
We want everyone to see
what great things are
happening at Grace!

Have you registered for the Kingdom Conference yet?

October 11 & 12 at Carlsbad Community Church in Carlsbad

Join your fellow Anglicans in this celebration of Ministries that Work.

Archbishop Robert Duncan will be the main speaker.

This will be his last trip to the Western United States while he is still Archbishop.

There will be lots of interesting and informative sharing sessions.

Register today at www.westernanglicans.org

Sunday at Grace

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Praise Team

**We need Cursillo
Candidate Sponsors!
Call the church office
if you need more
information.**

Readings for Sunday

Deuteronomy 4:1-9
Psalm 112
Hebrews 13:1-8
Luke 14:1-14

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer
(Year C)

This Week at Grace – August 27, 2013- September 3, 2013

Tues. August 27

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
1:00 p.m. **My Hope America video at Grace**
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC

Wed. August 28

8:30 a.m. Morning Prayer & Eucharist at Grace
9:30 a.m. No Staff Meeting

Thurs. August 29

6:10 a.m. Br. Benno's 5th Thurs. Team
7:00 a.m. Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist at CHC
7:00 p.m. Choir rehearsal

Fri. August 30

Fr. Joe's Day Off
6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer & Healing

Sat. August 31

8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship Team rehearsal

Sun. September 1 (15th Sunday after Pentecost)

7:30 a.m. Spoken Service
8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
9:45 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Nursery opens
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Praise Team

Mon. September 2

Labor Day – Church Office Closed

Tues. September 3

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Healing Prayer & Eucharist at CHC

Rector's Bible Study
Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Do you like to sing? Consider joining the choir
or the Praise Team. You will be blessed and
have a good time too!

Wednesdays at 8:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer at Grace Anglican
All are welcome to attend.

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting
during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of
all the groups or you can find the list on our website:
www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Up-coming events

Sep. 2 – Labor Day – Office Closed
Sep. 7- Rummage Sale at Grace.
Sep. 8 – Membership Sunday –
Combined Service at 9:00 a.m.
Sep. 10 – Colossians Study with Fr. Richard
Sep. 11 – **Soaking Prayer** – 6:30 p.m.
Sep. 13 – A Time of Liturgical Contemplation 7p.m.
Sep. 14 – Prayers & Squares meet at church
Sep. 15 – Ministry Fair at Grace
Sep. 15 – Sunday School & Children's Church begin
Sep. 19- Men's Cursillo begins
Sep. 26 – Women's Cursillo begins

Oct. 11 & 12 Kingdom Conference
at Carlsbad Community Church in
Carlsbad. Archbishop Bob Duncan
will address this diocesan wide
conference.

Please "Like" us on Facebook!

**Start saving your gently used
household goods and clothing
for our big rummage sale on**
September 7, 2013.