

Sunday, August 31, 2025 – Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading: Proverbs 25:6-7

6 - Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great;

7 - for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

1 - On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

7 - When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

8-11 - "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

What does this parable say to you?

Philippians 2: 5-7 – Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself.

12-14 - He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

What does this passage say to you?

Typically people would give a large banquet to show off.

Second Reading: Hebrews 13

2 - Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels without knowing it.

3 - Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; and those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured.

5 - Keep your lives free from love of money and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never fail you nor forsake you."

1 Timothy 6: 6-7 – There is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world and we will take nothing out of it.

Philippians 4: 11 – I have learned to be content with whatever I have.

6 - We can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid; what can anyone do to me?"

7 - Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

13 - Let us bear the abuse he endured.

14 - Here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come.

16 - Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have.

17 - Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls and will give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with sighing – for that would be harmful to you.

What makes you sigh?

James 3: 1 – Not many of you should become teachers, for those who teach will be judged with greater strictness.

18-19 - Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you all the more to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Do you have a clear conscience?

20-21 - Now may the God of peace who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do his will, working in you that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

22 – I appeal to you, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

23 – I want you to know that our brother Timothy has been set free; if he comes in time, he will be with me when I see you.

I know of references to Timothy's being with Paul when Paul was in prison, but I do not know of any other reference to Timothy's being in prison.

24 - Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings.

25 – Grace be with you all.

Acts 18: 2 – (In Corinth Paul) found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome.

1 Corinthians 16: 19 – The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Priscilla, together with the church in their house, greet you warmly in the Lord.

Acts 18: 24 – Now there came to Ephesus a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the Scriptures.