

Thoughts & Prayers

October 11, 2017

Prayer of the Day

O God, our refuge and strength, since you yourself are the author of our devotion, graciously consider the devout prayers of your Church. May those things which we ask in faith effectively follow by your grace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (Gelasian Sacramentary, 7th Century)

Prayer Concerns

Charlton Lindler: Iredell Memorial, "Not feeling bad, but not feeling good"
Gloria Hager who deeply misses Steve.

Thoughts on the Readings

The Common Thread

The Lord makes for us a feast of the richest food and the best wine. And through this holy meal, he puts death to death. Therefore, we cannot want for anything. He gives us food and drink, not only for the body but for the spirit. He spreads this table in the presence of our great enemies: sin, death, and the devil. They cannot prevail, so we will fear no evil, nor be anxious for any good thing. An incomprehensible peace and contentment overflows in the life of those whose Shepherd is the Lord.

First Reading - Isaiah 25:6-9

See how long the people of God have awaited the great feast? This idea of a feast implies a lack of want forever. Death will be no more. Sadness will be turned to joy. Disgrace will be covered in his grace.

Psalms - Psalm 23:1-6

What need do we have that our Shepherd does not provide? We do not want—particularly when he is what we want. When we draw near his voice (John 10:27), we are at peace. Even when we brush with death, the Shepherd leads us through that dark valley. Indeed, it is finally in that very valley where he ushers us in to heaven to dwell with him forever.

Second Reading - Philippians 4:4-13

The Lord is in the vicinity (Phil 4:5). It brings us peace to know he is at hand (Phil 4:7). The result is that we, like Paul, can find the peace of God in whatever situation comes our way.

Gospel - Matthew 22:1-14

The King has been calling people to his eternal feast for ages—millennia. One day, when days are no more, the wedding hall will be filled with guests. Heaven will be filled with an uncountable number of those called and chosen.