

## Singing Our Faith 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – October 15, 2017

*“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son.”* Right off the bat, we should make the connection that, while Jesus is referencing the Kingdom of Heaven in Sunday’s gospel parable, this also foreshadows the Eucharist. We’ve heard that the Mass is “The Wedding Feast of the Lamb,” which is quoted in St. John’s writings in Revelation. The opening hymn “As We Gather at Your Table” (below) stirs our hearts and minds to fully engage in the sacred mysteries and to benefit from the graces offered in the Mass. As I was reflecting on this text, four lines stood out to me. I want to take time to “unpack” the meaning of each...

**“Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own.”**

Food and water nourish our bodies. Through complicated processes that I won’t pretend to understand, our bodies takes the nutrients and uses them to keep all of our parts running smoothly. Unlike food and water, the Word of God enters our body through hearing and seeing. But do we **let it nourish** us and keep our spiritual life healthy? We should ask ourselves how we view the Liturgy of the Word each weekend. Do we let each set of readings breeze by us without contemplation or reflection? Or do we find ways that the scriptures can change our lives? Do we unite our lives with the teachings of scripture?

**“Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life.”**

More on nourishment – the Eucharist is nourishment! The “nutrient” of Christ – body, blood, soul, and divinity – infiltrates our

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body and spiritually nourishes us. The root for the word “Mass” can be traced back to the Latin word “missio” or “mission.” Turning our worship into witness is our **mission**, and the Eucharist nourishes us for this task of discipleship.

**“May we still behold your image in the world you died to save.”**

In our broken world which has experienced violence, natural disaster, and countless other forms of evil within recent weeks, this is a timely reminder. As Christians, it reminds us to see Christ in the face of a broken person; to remember the desire for holiness that God has placed in each person; to use our words and actions to inspire conversion of heart. **We can't lose hope.** As St. Paul reminds us in the second reading – “I can do all things in him who strengthens me.”

**“Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share the feast.”**

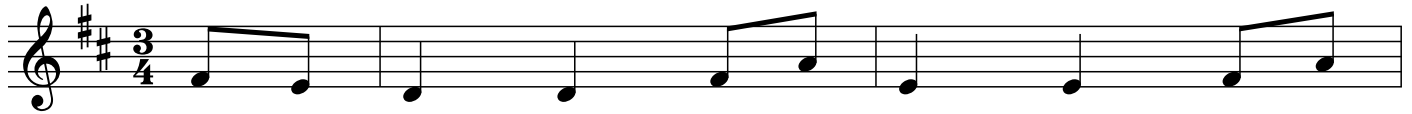
This prayer to the Holy Spirit echoes the gospel parable. In the parable, we learn that a simple invitation doesn't mean that the invitee will accept. If we don't have a connection to an event, we likely won't attend. If we know that it's going to be a real snoozer of a party, we likely won't attend. If the person giving us the invitation shows no real excitement when they invite us, we likely won't attend. We help summon guests not only by invitation, **but by radiating the joy of our relationship with Christ; by our passion and zeal for the faith; and by our Christian words and actions. Come, Holy Spirit!**

Stephen Eros

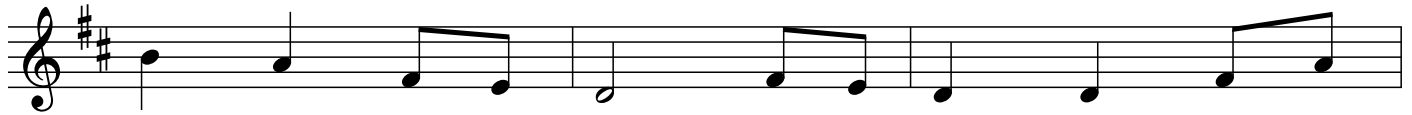
Director of Liturgy & Music

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1. As we gath - er at your Ta - ble, As we  
 2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness In the  
 3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon Oth - er



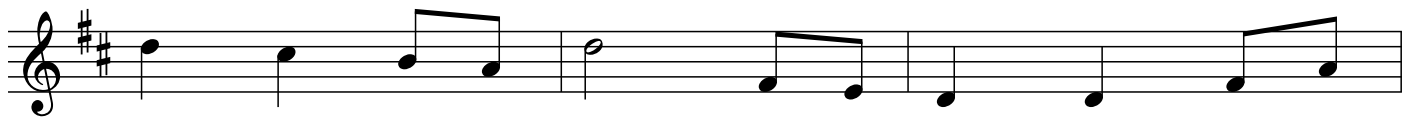
lis - ten to your word, Help us know, O God, your  
 sac - ra - ment of life; Send us forth to love and  
 guests to share that feast Where tri - um - phant Love will



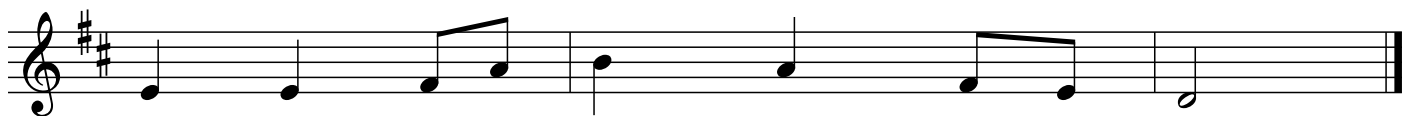
pres - ence; Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish  
 serve you, Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us,  
 wel - come Those who had been last and least. There no



us with sa - cred sto - ry Till we  
 Christ, your great com - pas - sion To for -  
 more will en - vy blind us Nor will



claim it as our own; Teach us through this ho - ly  
 give as you for - gave; May we still be - hold your  
 pride our peace de - stroy, As we join with saints and



ban - quet How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.  
 im - age In the world you died to save.  
 an - gels To re - peat the sound - ing joy.