

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

All who exalt themselves shall be humbled and all who humble themselves shall be exalted.

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.’

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL



Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Email: sales@stpauls.com.au Scripture readings taken from The Jerusalem Bible, © 1966 Hodder & Stoughton Ltd. All rights reserved. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2025. No 2105. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

Breaking Open the Word

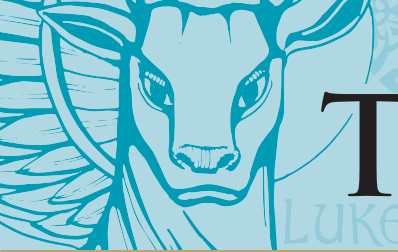
MEAL-TEACHINGS

Today’s opening Gospel verse sets the scene for what will unfold. It is a Sabbath, a day of rest when Israelites emulate the action of God in the creation story in Genesis 1. A meal now provides this for Jesus. What follows is in two parts.

The first is an analysis of social structure and hierarchy in Luke’s day. Jesus notices how some presume to sit in the places of honour. They presume entitlement. We are in a world where one of the most important social dynamics concerns the importance of ‘honour’ and ‘shame.’ Honour is a publicly recognised value by which people are confirmed or grow in their social standing; shame is its antithesis. Honour is a limited commodity which is either inherited or acquired. Those who ‘shame’ another grow in honour. Luke’s Jesus uses this social dynamic to reflect on self-exaltation and humility: ‘Those who exalt themselves will be humbled and those who humble themselves will be exalted’.

The second part of today’s Gospel further explores what happens at meals. The common expectation would be to host a meal with one’s friends and people of similar social standing. Jesus upends such meal etiquette. Rather than inviting social equals he encourages meal invitees to be the poor and those from the lower echelons. Payment for such graciousness will occur in the time of resurrection. These meal-teachings from Luke’s day, of humility and welcoming of the poor, continue to speak to us today.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

31 AUGUST 2025

FIRST READING Sir 3:17-20, 28-29

A reading from the book of Sirach
Humble yourself and you will find favour with the Lord.

My son, be gentle in carrying out your business,
and you will be better loved than a lavish giver.
The greater you are, the more you should behave humbly,
and then you will find favour with the Lord;
for great though the power of the Lord is, he accepts the homage of the humble.
There is no cure for the proud man’s malady, since an evil growth has taken root in him.
The heart of a sensible man will reflect on parables,
an attentive ear is the sage’s dream.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESP PSALM Ps 67:4-7, 10-11. R. cf. v. 11

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

1. The just shall rejoice at the presence of God, / they shall exult and dance for joy. / O sing to the Lord, make music to his name; / rejoice in the Lord, exult at his presence. **R.**
2. Father of the orphan, defender of the widow, / such is God in his holy place. / God gives the lonely a home to live in; / he leads the prisoners forth into freedom. **R.**
3. You poured down, O God, a generous rain: / when your people were starved you gave them new life. / It was there that your people found a home, / prepared in your goodness, O God, for the poor. **R.**



SECOND READING Heb 12:18-19, 22-24

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews
You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God.

What you have come to is nothing known to the senses: not a blazing fire, or a gloom turning to total darkness, or a storm; or trumpeting thunder or the great voice speaking which made everyone that heard it beg that no more should be said to them. But what you have come to is Mount Zion and the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem where the millions of angels have gathered for the festival, with the whole Church in which everyone is a ‘first-born son’ and a citizen of heaven. You have come to God himself, the supreme Judge, and been placed with spirits of the saints who have been made perfect; and to Jesus, the mediator who brings a new covenant.

■ The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 11:29

Alleluia, alleluia!
Take my yoke upon you;
learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart.
Alleluia!