

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY; PBS EUCHARIST.

The invite to the great Banquet puts us in mind of the Eucharist, the Supper that Jesus shared with His Disciples; the meal at which He gave them a foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet that awaits all those who take up His invite and share in the life of God. And there at that supper was one who accepted wholeheartedly the invite was the beloved disciple, St John who reclined with the host and placed his head on His breast. John heard the beating heart of the Saviour, a heart that was big enough and wide enough to draw in the whole of humanity; a heart that opened itself to all manner of people. A heart that says "come to me, there is room, join me, by my guest; take the best seat, the highest seat of honour, come and taste and see that the Lord is good. The invite to recline at the table of eternal life in the bosom of God goes out to everyone without qualification and for all time.

To accept the invite is to acknowledge not only gratitude at being worthy of being asked, it is to accept, in the context of the Eucharistic Banquet the need to be healed, for we remind ourselves that the Eucharist is the principal sacrament of healing, it is an anticipation of the life to come and being in the nearer presence of God where there is no crying or weeping but joy everlasting.

The shame of those who can only give excuses for not wanting to come to the banquet or to do so on their own terms is to claim that no healing is necessary. There is no need to be forgiven, no need to be aware of God's goodness, no need to pursue the path that leads to Sainthood. This is to be blinded by deceit, of thinking that one is innocent and above such need. When a person holds light to the invite and declines, it indicates that there really wasn't a grasp of the importance of the meal in the first place. There is danger in this attitude for the place allotted to the one who has refused the invitation may find that seat taken. The man who held the banquet had the venue filled with those who felt they did not deserve to be there, very much like how the Prodigal Son would have felt when he was invited by his father to that homecoming banquet.

No one deserves to be invited, but for those who have been and see it of little importance is to grieve the heart of the host. St John rested his head on the

spacious, boundless, loving heart of the host of the banquet, he also witnessed that heart being pierced. Pierced by the indifference of a humanity that knows not what it is doing, that knows not the implications of that indifference. But even at this moment the open heart of Jesus is opened for love that those might take up the invite, it is forever open that there might always be access for the sinful and the indifferent to step in and take their place at the table of the eternal banquet.

AMEN