

## **Motivation for Mt 22:1-14**

Today we are going to read a parable of a wedding feast. The parables can be challenging. Jesus deliberately challenged and disturbed his listeners. Somehow, today, across millennia, we are united to the people to whom Jesus first told this parable. Just as they had misgivings, we have misgivings. Just as they had hope or scepticism, belief or disbelief, so too do we.

Isaiah 25 and Psalm 23 can illuminate our lectio today. Psalm 23 promises of a cup overflowing with blessings, of a feast which is being prepared in 'the presence of my enemies'; Isaiah prophesies of 'a banquet of rich food, a banquet of fine wines, of succulent food, of well-strained wines'. In all these readings, God's abundance is compared to a great feast, a feast which God the father – King of all creation – is preparing for us. He who is the creator has humbled himself to become our host, to think of our needs as guests.

We are called to join the feast. How can we faithfully and joyfully respond?