Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace
Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

# 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 11, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

## *"The Invitation is Still Open"*

Many of us hear a beautiful song at Mass called Table of Plenty. One verse says: "O come and sit at my table where saints and sinners are friends. I wait to welcome the lost and lonely to share the cup of my love." These words touch the heart because they remind us of who God is. He is a loving Father who continually invites His children to come to Him. He does not wait only for the perfect or the worthy. He welcomes saints and sinners alike, the strong and the weak, the joyful and the brokenhearted. His invitation is always open.

Every time we gather for the Holy Eucharist, we respond to that invitation. We come to the Lord's table, where Jesus offers Himself fully to us, His Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity. Nourished by His Word and strengthened by His presence, we are united with Him in a personal and profound way. The Eucharist is not merely a ritual we attend; it is an encounter with the living Christ who desires to dwell within us.

This Sunday's Gospel presents the Parable of the Wedding Feast. A king prepares a magnificent banquet for his son's wedding and sends servants to invite the guests. Many, however, refuse to attend. Some are too busy, while others simply do not care. Still others reject the invitation outright and mistreat the king's messengers.

Yet the king does not give up. He wants the banquet hall full. He sends his servants into the streets and crossroads to invite everyone they can find. The rich and the poor, the known and the forgotten, the good and the bad are all welcomed. The feast is ready, and the king wishes everyone to share in his joy.

This parable reveals God's heart. He never stops inviting us. No matter where we are in life or how far we may have wandered, He continues to call us to Himself. His invitation is an invitation of love, mercy, and communion.

Many people today are like the first guests in the Gospel. Life has become so busy and demanding that God is often pushed to the margins. Work, responsibilities, worries, and countless distractions can occupy our attention, leaving little room for prayer, worship, and the nourishment of our souls. The Gospel gently challenges us to ask: Do I still make time for the Lord? Do I recognize His invitation as a gift?

The parable also speaks of the wedding garment. The issue is not about wearing expensive clothes or meeting social expectations. Rather, the wedding garment symbolizes the disposition of our hearts. God invites everyone to His banquet, but He asks us to come with hearts open to His grace and ready to be transformed by His love. We are called to clothe ourselves in faith, humility, repentance, charity, and a sincere desire to follow Christ.

Each Mass is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet awaiting us. Here and now, the Lord gathers us around His table and feeds us with the Bread of Life. Here and now, heaven touches earth. Here and now, we are reminded of our ultimate destiny, eternal communion with God. How sad it would be if we were too distracted, too indifferent, or too preoccupied to accept such a wonderful invitation.

The banquet is prepared. The Lord continues to call each of us by name. He invites the lonely, the weary, the struggling, and the hopeful. He invites those who feel close to Him and those who feel distant. He invites us not because we deserve it, but because He loves us.

The banquet of eternal life begins here at the Eucharistic table. Every Mass offers an opportunity to respond to His call with grateful and willing hearts. The question remains: Will we grace the occasion? Will we accept the Lord's invitation and come to His banquet?

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual