

On this Holy Mountain...

Here we are back to the Mountain...The Holy Mountain of God where wonderful and miraculous things take place...

Isaiah uses this Mountain and its images in very poetic ways. These images are beautiful and we hold them among the dearest in all scripture...The earliest is in Isaiah Chapter 2:

In days to come, the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest mountain and raised above the hills. All nations shall stream toward it. Many peoples shall come and say: "Come, let us go up to the LORD's mountain, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may instruct us in his ways" ...on this mountain, they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

Isaiah 11 revisits Gods Holy Mountain again:

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.

And again in today's reading...Isaiah 25:

On this mountain\* the LORD of hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines, juicy, rich food and pure, choice wines.

OK now you have my attention...a rich feast, with juicy meats and good wine.  
**What comes to your minds when the words rich food come to mind?** (Ask the community)

And while the images we just mentioned are supposed to come to mind to get our attention, particularly for those of us who are poor and hungry...**What we are really called to see is what this food does for us...**

It **destroys the veil that veils all people**. It opens our eyes so that we can see clearly, with wisdom and understanding

It destroys, **the web that is woven over all the nations**. This food and God's mountain frees us from what binds us and gets us out of the sticky mess that we find ourselves. God desires that we be free and unencumbered.

This food **destroys death forever!**

And we encounter our God who **wipes away the tears from our face**. Who cares for us, feels our pain, desires our healing

And a God who will **remove the reproach of his people**. The condemnation that we deserve. He removes the judgement and our sins are forgiven.

**For the Lord has spoken!**

Does this imagery remind us of something? The Eucharistic Celebration...A banquet of rich food and fine wine!

As so we find our way to the Gospel...We can really get into a major bible study in this parable...Looking at the King, who summons rather than invites...at a people worthy and invited but have no time and seemingly insults the king and kills his messengers (who does that?) ...His major over reaction...The street urchins who find their way into the banquet...the poor, the tax collector, the prostitute, all means of those unclean...the good and the bad. And what about the guest without a wedding garment, often interpreted as the baptismal garment, we all wear when coming to the banquet, or the Eucharist!

And while these elements are certainly worthy of study, the imagery of the Banquet that is prepared for all cannot or should be lost.

For in the Lord's own banquet we are fed with the finest of wheat and choicest of fine wines, but more than that we are given access to the mountain where God dwells. And once we partake of that which God provides the miracle or the grace can take place.

Our compassionate, caring God, heals us in undeserved ways, we are set free, healed and forgiven.

WOW. How can people miss this invitation or not want this food or catch a glimpse of God's Holy Mountain?

There is no substitution for this food...It is one of the great pains for this pandemic...We do not have access to the food...We can hear His word, we imagine its glory, but we can't taste the incarnation of our God...His food and His Drink, real food and real drink, flesh and blood.

Let us hunger, let us [taste and see the goodness of the Lord](#). And by his love and mercy find healing and forgiveness.

Amen!