

October 15, 2023



THE LORD OF HOSTS WILL PROVIDE FOR ALL PEOPLES

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's First Reading

*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. On this mountain he will destroy the veil that veils **all peoples**, the web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from every face; the reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said: "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us! This is the LORD for whom we looked; let us rejoice and be glad that he has saved us!" For the hand of the LORD will rest on this mountain.*

ISAIAH 25:6-10a

Reflection

Significant in this passage is the proclamation that “all peoples” will share in God’s lavish banquet. Eating sparingly was typical of most of the ancient people so “banquet” became a powerful symbol of the restoration of God’s power over the earth. There is a nourishment about God’s active presence that embraces ALL people on earth. Notably, the “veil” or “web” that separates nations from Israel will be removed so that the celebration will indeed be fully communal. It is declared that tears of sadness will be wiped from EVERY face. This passage suggests that the LORD will make life worth living for all people. Only by the power of God has this happened so Israel will be able to proclaim God as Savior. It is God’s saving energy that has restored and united all people.

Notice the “mountain” participates. It is a classic symbol of the Divine and human meeting place. Here heaven and earth connect. The Divine is never distant as the human joins with the Sacred.



Spiderweb on brown grass
Photo by Markus Spiske

For Pondering

- What difference does it make for God to provide for all people?
- How do you participate in God's action of restoration?

- Choose a line from the reading that touches you. What do you say to God?

For Prayer

*God, help me see;
help me understand
all that I see
in the light of your truth,
in the light of your ultimate justice.*

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