

Old Testament Reading: Proverbs 25:2-10

- ² It is the glory of God to conceal things,
but the glory of kings is to search things out.
- ³ As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
- ⁴ Take away the dross from the silver,
and the smith has material for a vessel;
- ⁵ take away the wicked from the presence of the king,
and his throne will be established in righteousness.
- ⁶ Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence
or stand in the place of the great,
- ⁷ for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

- What your eyes have seen
- ⁸ do not hastily bring into court,
for what will you do in the end,
when your neighbor puts you to shame?
 - ⁹ Argue your case with your neighbor himself,
and do not reveal another's secret,
 - ¹⁰ lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,
and your ill repute have no end.

Epistle: Hebrews 13:1-17

¹Let brotherly love continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. ⁵Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." ⁶So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;
I will not fear;
what can man do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ⁹Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. ¹⁰We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. ¹¹For the bodies

of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. ¹²So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. ¹³Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. ¹⁴For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. ¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

¹⁷Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Holy Gospel: Luke 14:1-14

¹One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. ²And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. ³And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. ⁵And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" ⁶And they could not reply to these things.

⁷Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

¹²He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

*Friend,
move up higher*



About the Cover: Seats of honor at a wedding feast are not taken. They are given by the host. So also, our honor before God is not something that we take. It has been given to us by Jesus, the Son of God. Even though Jesus deserved the greatest seat of honor, He took the shame of the cross on our behalf. But He was exalted. He rose, ascended, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Graciously, God "raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6).