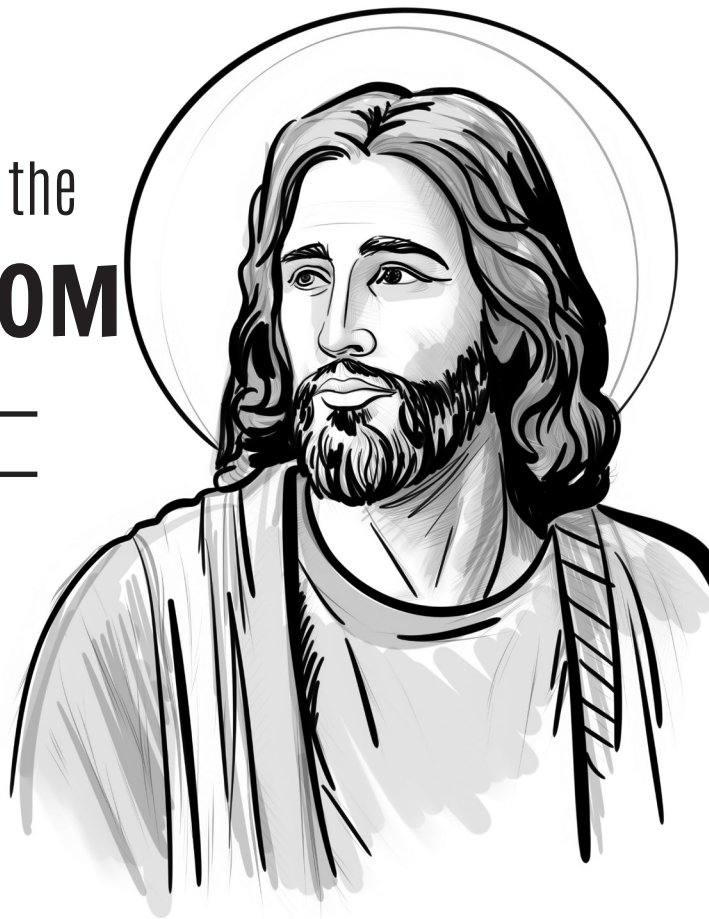




JESUS the BRIDEGROOM

Mariel Blanza



It is often easy to exclude and place labels on everyone we meet, as this seems to be part of our human nature. However, in reality, we should strive to truly get to know people rather than succumbing to automatic judgment. This is a struggle we continue to face, even to this day.

In today's Gospel, Jesus faced accusations for going against tradition and custom, as his actions did not fit their expectations of a 'Godly man.' Jesus responded, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while the bridegroom is with them?" Here, the bridegroom symbolizes Jesus Christ, signifying that his presence is a time of joy and celebration. Jesus is bringing here something radically new to the people he meets—a new understanding of faith rooted in joy, celebration, and the transformative power of God's love.

This also emphasizes that the new teachings and spirit Jesus brings cannot be contained within old structures and practices. To accept the new wine of the Gospel, we ourselves

must become new wineskins, undergoing a complete transformation rather than a shallow acceptance. Jesus calls us to live in the present, celebrating his presence and the abundant life he offers. While there will be times for fasting and reflection, these moments are meant to deepen our appreciation of the gifts we have received.

Jesus stands against a gloomy, rigid interpretation of religion, advocating instead for a faith full of gratitude and joy. As his followers, we are called to embody his compassion and kindness in our interactions with others. We should find joy in celebrating others' successes

in life, always carrying the positive and joyful presence of Christ within us. Our goal should be to serve as sources of encouragement and support, ensuring we do not contribute to someone's hardship, demotivation, burnout, anxiety, or sense of exclusion. Instead, let us be people who uplift and inspire confidence in others, reflecting the love and grace of Christ in all we do.

We are often reminded of this important message on social media: "Be kind, do not be quick to judge, for everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle." Let this serve as a continual reminder for us all.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

[Ps 33 (32):11, 19]

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

The designs of his Heart are from age to age, to rescue their souls from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

(These or similar words may be used to address the assembly.)

P—In today's Gospel Reading, Jesus alludes to himself as the groom whose presence among the people brings the joy of messianic banquet. It is but proper, therefore, that the disciples focus on joy instead of sorrow and penance symbolized by fasting. Nonetheless, Jesus is the Messiah who would suffer and die in order to save people from their sins. In solidarity with the Lord in his passion, the believers also fast. But this does not change the fact that they have joy in them, the joy which Jesus alone can give.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P—Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All—For we have sinned against you.

P—Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All—And grant us your salvation.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

P—Christ, have mercy.

All—Christ, have mercy.

P—Lord, have mercy.

All—Lord, have mercy.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Clothe us, Lord God, with the virtues of the Heart of your Son

and set us aflame with his love, that, conformed to his image, we may merit a share in eternal redemption.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (1 Cor 4:1-5) *(Sit)*

In the light of the resurrection, the divinity of Jesus is fully revealed. The functions of Christ, presented in poetic form, may have been part of the creed of the early Christians.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: Thus should one regard us: as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy. It does not concern me in the least that I be judged by you or any human tribunal; I do not even pass judgment on myself; I am not conscious of anything against me, but I do not thereby stand acquitted; the one who judges me is the Lord. Therefore, do not make any judgment before the appointed time, until the Lord comes, for he will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will manifest the motives of our hearts, and then everyone will receive praise from God.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 37)

R—The salvation of the just comes from the Lord.

1. Trust in the LORD and do good,/ that you may dwell in the land and be fed in security./ Take delight in the LORD,/ and he will grant you your heart's requests. **(R)**

2. Commit to the LORD your way;/ trust in him, and he will act./ He will make justice dawn for you like the light;/ bright as the noonday shall be

your vindication. **(R)**

3. Turn from evil and do good,/ that you may abide forever;/ for the LORD loves what is right,/ and forsakes not his faithful ones./ Criminals are destroyed/ and posterity of the wicked is cut off. **(R)**

4. The Salvation of the just is from the LORD;/ he is their refuge in time of distress./ And the LORD helps them and delivers them;/ he delivers them from the wicked and saves them,/ because they take refuge in him. **(R)**

Alleluia (Jn 8:12) *(Stand)*

All—Alleluia, alleluia. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Lk 5:33-39)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

THE SCRIBES and the Pharisees said to Jesus, "The disciples of John the Baptist fast often and offer prayers, and the disciples of the Pharisees do the same; but yours eat and drink." Jesus answered them, "Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, and when the bridegroom is taken away from them, then they will fast in those days." And he also told them a parable. "No one tears a piece from a new cloak to patch an old one. Otherwise, he will tear the new and the piece from it will not match the old cloak. Likewise, no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins, and it will be spilled, and the skins will be ruined. Rather, new wine must be poured into fresh wineskins. And no one who has been drinking old wine desires new, for he says, 'The old is good.'"

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily *(Sit)*

Prayer of the Faithful

P—The Lord compares the joy of the Kingdom to the joy of the wedding guests. In moments of sorrow and distress, let us draw courage from Easter joy that no one can take away from us. Let us pray:

R—Lord, hear us.

C—May the joy of Christ shine on the faces of the faithful attending the wedding banquet rather than they bear the sadness of those coming from the funeral wake. We pray: **(R)**

C—May the grief of people who endure great suffering slowly give way to a quiet yet firm trust in the Lord. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we have a new heart and new mind to contain the freshness of the Gospel message. We pray: **(R)**

C—May consecrated men and women who live their "spousal love" of Jesus the Bridegroom through their vows witness to the joy in having found the pearl of great price. We pray: **(R)**

C—May our departed brothers and sisters sit at the banquet of heaven that the Lord has prepared for his faithful ones. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Loving Father, may our fasting and deprivations not lead to unhappiness, but to the joy of sharing in Jesus' redemptive mission, so that we may someday sit at table in your Kingdom.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

LITURGY OF
THE EUCHARIST



Presentation of the Gifts *(Stand)*

P—Pray, brethren...

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—O God, Father of mercies, who because of the great love with which you loved us, with untold goodness gave us your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that being perfectly united with him, we may offer you worthy homage.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface *(The Boundless Charity of Christ)*

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

P—Lift up your hearts.

All—We lift them up to the Lord.

P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All—It is right and just.

P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For raised up high on the Cross, he gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out Blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church's Sacraments, so that, won over to the open heart of the Savior, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...

P—Deliver us, Lord...

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God...

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Cf. Jn 19:34)

One of the soldiers opened his side with a lance, and at once there came forth blood and water.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Made partakers in your Sacrament of charity, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that we may be conformed to Christ on earth and merit to be coheirs of his glory in heaven.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing.
(Pause)

Be gracious to your people, O Lord, and do not withhold consolation on earth from those you call to strive for heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All—Thanks be to God.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART *of Jesus*

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petitions).*

To whom can I turn to if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted, protection when persecuted, strength

when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. Amen.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR SAMBUHAY DIGITAL MISSALETTE

For inquiries and orders:

FACEBOOK: Sambuhay Missalette

GMAIL: sambuhay@stpauls.ph

TEL: (02) 8895-9701