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ORDINARY 22C

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A short act of worship and daily devotions

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Opening Prayers

Holy and generous God,
I pause a moment in your presence,
And reflect on the day, this week, the months and years that have passed in my life.

As I pause, help me to look upon my life with humility,
With faithfulness,
With a recognition of your grace at work.

Today, I am grateful for the life I have been given.
For the people I experience life with and those I encounter along the way.

Help me to live in your image, I pray
To live out my life in faith with humility.

Lord,
You love tenaciously.

Care for the vulnerable.
As was shown with how your son Jesus lived, you value simplicity and contentment.
In your eyes we are all equal,
Help me to see the world in the same way,
Showing love and hospitality for all those we meet.

Help me to live as you would have me live,
Caring for the vulnerable and needy to give selflessly.
To reverse the roles of status, race, gender, sexuality and age society places upon people.
Looking at all as you do, equal in your eyes.

Help me, Lord of generosity and love, to live my life imitating you and your values.

Amen.

You may now wish to say the Lord's Prayer in a version or translation with which you are familiar

Reading: Luke 14:1, 7-14 – [Click for reading](#)

Responding to the reading

In today's reading from Luke 14, we find Jesus doing something very ordinary, something he does regularly throughout his earthly ministry: sharing a meal. But, as often happens when Jesus is at the table, the moment becomes anything but ordinary.

He's watching the guests carefully choose the best seats, the places of honour. And then he offers a story that turns the whole idea of honour and status on its head.

Jesus challenges his listeners to take the lower seat, to let someone else lift them up. And then he goes even further: when you are the host, he says, don't just invite the people who can repay you: your friends, family, or wealthy neighbours. Invite the poor, the outcast, the forgotten. Invite those who can't repay you. Then you will be blessed.

This isn't just dinner party advice. It's a vision of God's kingdom. In a world where status often defines worth, Jesus invites us into something radically different: a table shaped by humility, grace, and welcome.

This message reminds us that the heart of discipleship isn't about climbing to the top or surrounding ourselves with people like us. It's about opening our lives, and our tables, to those who are often left out. It's about making room where others would close the door.

Jesus isn't against honour, but he redefines it. True honour, he says, comes not from recognition or power, but from living out God's justice and love. The kind of honour that counts in God's kingdom is quiet, generous, and unselfish. It lifts others up. It doesn't ask, 'What can I get from this relationship?' but rather, 'What can I give?'

And there's grace in this, too. Because when we stop grasping for the best seat, we're free. Free to show up with honesty and humility. Free to honour others without needing to be noticed ourselves. Free to become hosts of a bigger, more generous table.

So today, reflect on this:

- Where are you being invited to take the lower seat, not out of shame, but in solidarity and love?
- Who might be missing from your table, literally or figuratively?
- How can you live more generously, without expecting anything in return?

Discipleship isn't always glamorous. But it's beautiful. It looks like humility, hospitality, and hope.

May we keep building tables where all are welcome, and honour is given not to the powerful, but to the kind.

Responding in music

67 STF – This, this is the God we adore – [YouTube](#)

Blessing

May the love of the Lord who is all around you, be known to you.

May the peace of the Christ who spans all time, be close to you.

And may the fire of the Spirit who inspires you towards a better, brighter world, forge a path for you, this and everyday,

Amen.

Prayers and Prayer Pointers

Monday 1st September

- The new week, the new month, the new academic and church year dawns today. What new opportunities are you looking for this week? What new patterns, habits and possibilities?
- Offer these questions to God, and make some notes about where your thoughts go – can you hear an invitation from the divine?

Tuesday 2nd September

- Hold up your hand in front of you. With the index finger of the other hand, trace your hand. Guide your finger slowly around each finger and your thumb, breathing in as you move up, and breathing out as you move down. Repeat the pattern until you feel centred, calm and peaceful.

Wednesday 3rd September

- With the index finger of one hand, write your name in the air. Remember you are chosen, named and loved by God.
- Now, write the name of someone you love who is on your mind as you pray for them.

Thursday 4th September

- Lord of all graciousness, today I say thank you.
Thank you for all you have blessed me with, and sorry for all the times I take those blessings for granted.
Help me to be grateful today, and every day.
Amen.

Friday 5th September

- Today is the UN's International Day of Charity – celebrating all the work that the voluntary and charitable sector achieves all around the world.
- Today, we invite you to pray for charities known to you, and those who work, volunteer and give to make their work possible and help contribute to making society, and the world, a better place.

Saturday 6th September

- Take a moment to look out of the nearest window. What is your eye drawn to? It could be a huge building, a plant in your garden, a neighbouring house, a cat - anything at all. Focus on it for a little while. Take note of the emotions or connections it stirs up in you.