

## ***Catholic Church Bulletin Insert***

*Revealing Peace & Justice through Scripture from – “In the beginning...” (Gn 1:1) to “The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all. Amen!” (Rev 2:21)™*

July 31, 2011

18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Isaiah 55: 1 - 3

Romans 8: 35, 37 - 39

Matthew 14: 13 – 21

Today’s beautiful Hebrew Testament passage of Isaiah 55: 1-3 is referred to as the “benefits (or mercies) of David” (v 3). Additionally, the 55<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Isaiah infers a covenant of grace (benefits or mercies) with all humankind that is found ***in Christ***, given because of the resurrection of Jesus.

All are invited to this banquet, to come to the water without paying and without cost. Christ offered these gifts to everyone. They are invaluable and no such price can be set upon them. This banquet invitation is extended to everyone: Jews and Gentiles, the poor and maimed, the blind and deaf, the immigrant, widow and orphan. The invitation list includes everyone.

The message is that ***in Christ*** there is enough for everyone.

C. S. Lewis makes this same point about inclusiveness ***in Christ*** in the preface to his landmark book Mere Christianity: “Be kind to those who have chosen different doors and to those who are still in the hall. If they are wrong they need your prayers all the more; and if they are your enemies, then you are under orders to pray for them. That is one of the rules common to the whole house”.<sup>1</sup>

197 words

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<sup>1</sup> C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity (New York: Macmillan Publishing Company, 1943)