

#5: Vamos Todos (Let Us Go, Now)

Listen to track 5 of *Songs of Justice and Peace*.

You can find the words in ELW 523. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)



Scripture:

"The next time you put on a dinner, don't just invite your friends and family and rich neighbors, the kind of people who will return the favor. Invite some people who never get invited out, the misfits from the wrong side of the tracks. You'll be – and experience – a blessing. They won't be able to return the favor, but the favor will be returned – oh, how it will be returned! – at the resurrection of God's people."

Luke 14:12-14 (from *The Message*)

Devotion:

The chorus of this hymn is fun to sing! When I first learned the song, I sang it with many communities, and they liked it, too. At times, however, I feel disconnected from the verses. Sometimes I have an idealized view of Salvadoran field laborers all working together, forgetting how hard their labor must be as I listen to this joyful tune.

Sometimes I feel guilty for being a rich person from the US -- even though I am not rich by US standards. I wonder how I might share in the "banquete" with people who have endured so many more hardships than I have. Am I invited, too? Do I hold myself back from the banquet by comparing myself with those who have more and those who have less?

God wants to have a house full of hungry guests! God's banquet of love and mercy is a bountiful gift, offered freely and generously to all of us. It is in coming to the "banquete," a banquet of love prepared by God, that we find our place of belonging. It is not because of our money, education or achievements. It is not because of our sacrifices, poverty or endured hardships. We find our place, our "puesto," in the true reassurance of belonging to God who through Jesus set the table for us. It is not just a snack, but a banquet with the concept of "enough" - enough for all.

In that reassuring grace, there is enough for all, space for all, and mission for all. We can be servants sent to invite others, so that the Master's house is full, that all have a place in God's embrace.

Prayer:

Dear God of Enough, thank you for the invitation to join the banquet. Thank you for a place in your embrace. Thank you for the reassurance of belonging. Empower me to invite others. Amen.

Reflection:

Where in your life are you being invited? What is it that could keep you from joining the banquet? Who could you invite to the banquet?

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