



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

23rd August 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday.

If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Back to our regular Sundays, with a passage from Saint Matthew that we read a few weeks ago on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul: Jesus gives Simon a new name and a new job – to be the "rock" supporting the new community of the Church. We still have a rock today – our Holy Father, Pope Francis, successor of Saint Peter. We pray for him this Sunday. To celebrate the Lord's Day, we ask for God's mercy, and praise God saying:

Gloria

A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Opening prayer

L: Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But you,' he said 'who do you say I am?' Then Simon Peter spoke up, 'You are the Christ,' he said, 'the Son of the living God.' Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.' Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

This Gospel passage tells us something important about the

ministry of Our Lord: it clearly shows that he wanted a community of faith to follow him – a church – and that he recognised it would need human leadership. The nickname bestowed on Simon – Peter, meaning "Rock" – might seem amusing, even ironic, given Peter's rather poor track record after this. But Peter's faith eventually became the firm foundation of the Church, like the "house built on rock" of another of Jesus' parables! It's easy to point to "bad" popes in 2,000 years of papal history (and in discussion with non-Catholic friends - or even family - you may find this coming up quite often!) But the humanity of Saint Peter, which was refined by the Lord's mercy, became the Rock on which we are still resting after all these centuries. Let us pray for ourselves, that we may overcome our frailties, and for our Holy Father Pope Francis, that he may be given strength to continue the mission entrusted to Peter.

A Thought for our Younger Friends

I'm sure you all know who the Pope is – Pope Francis! And I am sure you know what the Pope's job is – to lead the Catholic church. Do you know what the word "Pope" means? It comes from the Greek "*pappas*", which literally means "Dad"! It is what a youngster like yourself would call your Father. Why would the Bishop of Rome be called "Dad"? Because it describes his job in looking after all of us in the Church. This was the job given to Saint Peter by Jesus in the Gospel today, and it has been held by hundreds of men, one after the other, from Saint Peter to Pope Francis. The Pope has to be "Dad" to millions of Catholics throughout the whole world, so he needs

our prayers to help him! Say a prayer for Pope Francis today, thinking of him as "Dad" for the whole church. And if you want a little exercise, see if you can find how many popes there have been since Saint Peter!

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: Let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

L: We pray for Pope Francis, successor of Saint Peter, that his faith may be strong, that he may shepherd the family of the Church with love. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for everyone in the family of the Church throughout the world, united in faith and worship, that we may truly be one. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for all Christians in different churches and communities; that we may talk and work more and more together, so that there will be one flock, with one shepherd. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, through his Paschal Mystery accomplished the marvellous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.
Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

A: Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

L: I thank you, Lord, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

A: Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

L: I thank you for your faithfulness and love,
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

A: Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

L: The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands.

A: Your love, O Lord, is eternal: discard not the work of your hands.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.
Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!