



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
23rd August 2021

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 Cf. Ps 85: 1-3

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: Today is our final selection from John 6: but rather than a triumphant conclusion, it appears to be a failure. Jesus loses many of his disciples, since they find his teaching about the Bread of life to be "intolerable." Jesus is not concerned with numbers, or earthy fame or success, but with faith: he even invites Peter to leave if he wants to! Peter's simple reply – "Where else should we go?" sums up the loving response of faith, and the desire to follow Jesus come what may. We pray for the same faith and trust today. Let us ask for mercy, and praise God as we say:

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.

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading John 6:60-69

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before? 'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him. Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

"In my land there is a saying that goes: 'When you ride a horse and you have to cross a river, please do not change horses in the middle of the river.' In times of crisis, be very firm in your conviction of faith. In this Gospel, these who left, who changed horses, looked for another teacher who wasn't as tough; as they said to him. In times of crisis there must be perseverance, silence; stay where we are, be firm. This is not the time to make changes. It is a time of fidelity, of fidelity to God, of fidelity to the things we have chosen before; also, it is the time of conversion because this fidelity will inspire in us some changes for the better, but not to distance ourselves from good."

Pope Francis, Homily at Mass 2nd May 2020

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Some people always want to say the things that other people want to hear. Sometimes they will say one thing to one person, and the opposite to another! Jesus is never like this – he speaks the simple truth, whether people like it or not. It can be very dangerous to live always worrying about what people think of us, and always trying to say the "popular" thing, and yet this is tempting – we can "fit in". But we risk losing ourselves, who we really are! Ask Jesus to help you know the truth, and speak the truth, rather than trying to say what people want to hear!

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to have a discussion about what this celebration 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 was 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: Believing that Christ has the words that lead to fullness of life, let us pray to be faithful to the gospel we have heard.

We believe your Word gives life; may the church proclaim the gospel of life in the power of your Spirit. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

We believe your Word nourishes human hopes; may peoples whose lives are plagued by oppression and pain find healing in the good news. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

We believe your Word reconciles all humanity into the peace of God's reign; may all nations walk by the light of truth. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

We believe that at your Word the faithful will rise to the glory of the resurrection; may our sisters and brothers who have died be welcomed into the new creation. 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: Loving Father, Jesus your Son, at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity. And so, in our minds and hearts we now approach the table of his wondrous Sacrament, so that, bathed in the sweetness of your grace, we may pass over to the heavenly realities here foreshadowed. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we welcome him spiritually into our homes and 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: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

A: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

L: I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.

The humble shall hear and be glad.

A: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

L: The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just and his ears to their appeal.

A: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

L: They call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

A: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

L: Many are the trials of the just man but from them all the Lord will rescue him.

He will keep guard over all his bones, not one of his bones shall be broken.

A: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

L: Evil brings death to the wicked; those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

A: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

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!

DIocese of  SALFORD

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