

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
29th 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: 3, 5

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: After our "summer holiday" in John Chapter 6, we are back in Saint Mark's Gospel today, as Jesus confronts the Pharisees and scribes. He accuses them of being more concerned with "outward show" than sincerity of faith in their hearts, of a preoccupation with "human traditions" instead of the commandments of God. We pray that we may never give in to the same temptation, but may offer worthy worship today and always! 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.

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the market place they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, 'Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?' He answered, 'It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture: 'This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations.' You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.' He called the

people to him again and said, 'Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men's hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

It's easy to update this Gospel: imagine a pious Catholic who is always going on about not eating meat on Fridays, but splashes out on an extravagant meal at a five-star fish restaurant every week! Or, more seriously, a warlord who proudly attends Mass every morning, then presides over acts of violence and cruelty for the rest of the day. Jesus detests this sort of hypocrisy – a concern for the outward, the visible or the "human tradition", while neglecting the inner reality – faith, hope and most especially love of God and love of neighbour. God does not look at our outward displays, but at our hearts. It is in our hearts that we must first practise our religion, and then let everything else flow from that place only God sees.

A Thought for our Younger Friends

It's back to school time this week! Perhaps you will have to remind yourself of school rules – like running in corridors, or how to behave at lunchtime. Jesus wants us to remember what is behind rules – protecting ourselves and others. Have a think about any school rules you

know, and work out what is “behind them” – why are they there?

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: Let us pray to have the heart and mind of Christ.

For a deeper reverence and knowledge of the sacred scriptures, that God’s word will guide us in discerning the essentials of love. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

For the ability to set aside human traditions and religious customs out of deference to the gospel’s call to justice and compassion. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

For the gift of spiritual and moral renewal in our personal lives, that all our actions may flow from God’s peace and truth. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

For all who are returning to school or college, that the Spirit will guide their lives and continue claiming them for Christ. 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: May our heartfelt worship, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal. For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in his Paschal Mystery. The night before he died, taking bread and wine, the fruits of the earth, he gave himself as a perfect offering to you, and to be with his friends always. 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 Psalm 14(15):2-5

L: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

A: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

L: Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

He who walks without fault; he who acts with justice and speaks the truth from his heart; he who does not slander with his tongue.

A: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

L: He who does no wrong to his brother, who casts no slur on his neighbour, who holds the godless in disdain, but honours those who fear the Lord.

A: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

L: He who keeps his pledge, come what may; who takes no interest on a loan and accepts no bribes against the innocent. Such a man will stand firm for ever.

A: The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Renewed by our spiritual communion with your only-begotten Son, we beseech you, Lord, that he may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. 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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