



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME



TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
27th September 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

All: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: It's not what we say, but what we do that matters. As Saint James said in a famous passage of his letter *"Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith."* Today we pray that we may both say AND do what pleases the Lord! To begin our Sunday prayers, we ask for that mercy for all our sins:

Penitential Act

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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 manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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

Matthew 21:28-32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your

opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Jesus really knows how to make a point! This is a wonderful example of him trapping the chief priests and elders into reinforcing his teaching even though they don't want to! The reference to "tax collectors and prostitutes" must have really riled them! But perhaps the subtext would have annoyed them more: Jesus is saying they are the first son, who says all the right things but does not do his father's will. The Pharisees, scribes and leaders of Israel might be *saying* the right things, as they preach the Law of Moses, but they are not *doing* the right things – not repenting and listening to Jesus! Of course, the ideal is to bring both our words and deeds together – this is integrity – so that we both say "Yes" to God and carry out his will.

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Read the Gospel story again, but change “work in the vineyard” to “tidy your room”! It’s easy to SAY we will do something, but what matters is that we actually DO IT! This is why the first son, even though he was a bit grumpy to his dad (which was wrong) eventually got it right! Can you think of other examples that might happen in your life, where you might say one thing and do another?

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 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 think of our prayers for this Sunday.

L: As the season of Creation, we pray that we may always consider the ways in which we use the natural resources of this world, and seek to use less. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for the Church, for Pope Francis and our Bishops, that they may always practice integrity in their teaching and actions. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for our own communities, and anyone we know who is suffering, struggling or sorrowful at this time, that the Lord Jesus may be with them.

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: Grant us, O merciful God, that our prayers may find acceptance with you and that through them the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Almighty Father, we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Remember your mercy, Lord.

A: Remember your mercy, Lord.

L: Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour.

A: Remember your mercy, Lord.

L: Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

A: Remember your mercy, Lord.

L: The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, He guides the humble in the right path, He teaches his way to the poor.

A: Remember your mercy, Lord.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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!