

# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME



TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)  
26<sup>th</sup> September 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** *Dn 3: 31, 29, 30, 43, 42*

A: 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: Once more we make the Lord's Day holy by our prayers, asking for mercy and healing and praising 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 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** *Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48*

John said to Jesus, 'Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him.' But Jesus said, 'You must not stop him: no one who works a miracle in my name is likely to speak evil of me. Anyone who is not against us is for us. If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink just because you belong to Christ, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward. But anyone who is an obstacle to bring down one of these little ones who have faith, would be better thrown into the sea with a great millstone round his neck. And if your hand should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life crippled, than to have two hands and go to hell, into the fire that cannot be put out. And if your foot should cause you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter into life lame, than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye should cause you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell where their worm does not die nor their fire go out.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

### Reflection

"John and the other disciples display a 'closed' attitude when faced with a circumstance that does not fit with their programme, in this

case the action, albeit good, of a person 'outside' the circle of followers. Jesus on the other hand, appears very free, fully open to the freedom of the Spirit of God, whose actions are not limited by any confines nor boundaries. Jesus wants to educate his disciples — and us today — on this inner freedom. It is good for us to reflect on this episode and to perform a small examination of conscience. The disciples' attitude is very human, very common, and we can observe this in Christian communities throughout history, probably in ourselves as well. In good faith, indeed with zeal, one would like to protect the authenticity of a certain experience, safeguarding the founder or leader from false impersonators. But at the same time, there is a sort of fear of 'competition' — and this is bad: the fear of competition —, that someone may steal new followers, and we are thus unable to appreciate the good that others do: it is not good because he is 'not one of us', they say. ... God's great freedom in giving himself to us represents a challenge and an exhortation to modify our behaviours and our relationships. It is the invitation which Jesus addresses to us today. He calls us not to think according to the categories of 'friend/enemy', 'us/them', 'those who are in/those who are out', 'mine/yours', but rather to go beyond, to open our heart in order to be able to recognize God's presence and action, even in unusual and unpredictable environments that are not part of our circle."

Pope Francis, *Angelus Message*,  
30th September 2018

### A Thought for our Younger Friends

Sometimes when we are young we form gangs — some people are "with us", some are "not one

of us." Jesus tells his friends that they must not think like this, especially when someone is doing good! Let's pray that we may not think of "them and us", but try to work together with everyone who is doing good things, as children of God.

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: Only by the power of God's Spirit can we lead holy, prophetic, and compassionate lives. Let us implore the Spirit to be with us on our journey.

As the church works to expel the demons of violence and poverty that destroy human life, we ask:

A: Spirit of Jesus, be with us.

As Christian communions work to deepen the spiritual and sacramental bonds among all the followers of Christ, we ask:

A: Spirit of Jesus, be with us.

As we take to heart the word of God calling us away from extravagant living and all forms of wastefulness, we ask:

A: Spirit of Jesus, be with us.

As we struggle with our own constant need for conversion that leads to fullness of life in the reign of God, we ask:

A: Spirit of Jesus, be with us.

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 all our prayer and worship may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

### Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people, formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church. Jesus your Son, the night before he died, taking bread and wine, the fruits of the earth, 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 Ps 18(19):8,10,12-14

L: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

A: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

L: The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.

A: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

L: The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.

A: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

L: So in them your servant finds instruction; great reward is in their keeping. But who can detect all his errors? From hidden faults acquit me.

A: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

L: From presumption restrain your servant and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless, clean from grave sin.

A: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

## 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!

DIocese of  SALFORD

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