

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME



TWENTY SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) 4th October 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: Within your will, O Lord, all things are established, and there is none that can resist your will. For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth, and all that is held within the circle of heaven; you are the Lord of all.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: We must be open to the warning Jesus gives today: as he upbraids those who are not "delivering the produce" to God, he places on us the responsibility of being "a people who will produce" the fruits of the Kingdom of God. We pray today that we will be productive in God's vineyard! To begin this Sunday, let's praise God and ask for mercy, 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 in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask. 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 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?' They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the

vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: *It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see?* I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Another parable where Jesus corners those opposed to him, and makes them pronounce the meaning of the story, even though it is directed against them! In this parable Jesus speaks of his own death: he is the landowner's son, who is killed "outside the vineyard" – remember how he is taken "outside the city wall" of Jerusalem in order to be crucified. The key message for us is that we too are "tenants" – the Kingdom of God is not ours, only entrusted to us to produce fruit for God. What sorts of fruit can we produce? Perhaps have a think about the traditional 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit: *charity, generosity, joy, gentleness, peace, faithfulness, patience, modesty, kindness, self-control, goodness and chastity*. One for each month of the year!

For our Younger Friends

You might be doing Harvest displays at school at the moment, with lots of apples and grapes and wheat and pears and pomegranates and cabbages and all sorts! The story in the Gospel today is all about fruit – but not apples and pears! Jesus wants goodness and kindness and

fairness: can you write a list of the “not-fruit fruits” that you can offer to Jesus in your daily life?

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: On the last day of the Season of Creation (and the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) let us pray for this world entrusted to us; that we may be good tenants. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the world in which we live, imploring peace and justice in all communities affected by violence or unfairness. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We offer a prayer for our own parish community, for our priests and all our people, that we may be a fruitful portion of the Lord’s vineyard. 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: Accept, O Lord, we pray, the sacrifices instituted by your commands and, through the sacred mysteries, which we celebrate with dutiful service, graciously complete the sanctifying work by which you are pleased to redeem us. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Before Spiritual Communion

L: Almighty Father, you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience. 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: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

A: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

L: You brought a vine out of Egypt; to plant it you drove out the nations.

It stretched out its branches to the sea, to the Great River it stretched out its shoots.

A: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

L: Then why have you broken down its walls?

It is plucked by all who pass by.

It is ravaged by the boar of the forest, devoured by the beasts of the field.

A: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

L: God of hosts, turn again, we implore,

look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,

the vine your right hand has planted.

A: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

L: And we shall never forsake you again;

give us life that we may call upon your name.

God of hosts, bring us back;

let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

A: The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray. May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray, perfect in us what lies within them, that what we now celebrate in signs we may one day possess in truth. 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!