



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
Sunday 15th November 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

A: The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: More thoughts about the Second Coming and judgment, with Jesus telling another story about what God expects of us: we have all been entrusted with so much in this life, but we must make sure we are using God's gifts wisely and well. We pray for guidance and grace today, and begin by praising God and asking for mercy, 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.

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good.

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 25:14-30*

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it

was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth." The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

In keeping with the time of year, and our focussing on the second coming of Jesus to judge the world, we have another parable of the Kingdom today. It has two main themes: the abundant generosity of God and our responsibility to use well what is entrusted to us. God's generosity is revealed in the amounts that Jesus chooses for what is entrusted to the servants: a talent is an awful lot of money! Some writers calculate five talents as being worth about two million pounds! Even the one talent is worth £400,000. What amazing trust the Master shows, handing over that amount of money to his servants! Realising this perhaps makes his anger in the latter part of the story more understandable! But in the parables of Jesus everything stands for something else: this generous trust is about God and us: God gives us so much – this world, the whole of creation, our own skills and "talents", even the invaluable gift of life itself. How much does our God trust us! But then we get to the second part of the story: having been trusted with so much, we will have to answer for the ways we have used it: simply holding on to

things for ourselves, journeying through this life selfishly, will not be enough: God wants us to use all that is entrusted to us wisely, well and above all, generously!

For our Younger Friends

Let's imagine: someone is going to give you A MILLION POUNDS! But ... and there's a big "but" ... they have given it to you to do something good with it, and they are going to come back in five years to see what you have done with it! Hmmmm What are you going to do? Perhaps have a chat with mum or dad or grandparents to see if they have any ideas! The point is that God has given you something wonderful: I don't know what it is – perhaps you are good at listening or helping, or you are creative or a strong friend or can make people laugh – we are all different. But God has given you something – a special gift or talent – and wants you to USE that gift. Have a think about what your gift might be, and how you can use it in a way that will make God happy!

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 the world and the Church this Sunday.

L: Today is the World Day of the Poor, so we pray for all who struggle in our world, and for the charities, agencies and individuals who seek

to help: may we use the gifts we have received generously. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: If we were in Church today, there would be a collection for our retired priests: we pray in thanksgiving for the generous ministry of our retired clergy, and pray for their well-being and contentment in retirement. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for in need in our world today, especially peoples living in situations of war and conflict. 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, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Before Spiritual Communion

L: Most loving 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: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

A: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

L: O blessed are those who fear the Lord

and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper.

A: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

L: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.

A: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

L: Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

A: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. 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!