



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
30th August 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

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: Back to our regular Sundays, with a passage from Saint Matthew that we read a few weeks ago on the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul: Jesus gives Simon a new name and a new job – to be the "rock" supporting the new community of the Church. We still have a rock today – our Holy Father, Pope Francis, successor of Saint Peter. We pray for him this Sunday. To celebrate the Lord's Day, we ask for God's mercy, and praise God 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.

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, one God, for ever and ever.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to make it clear to his disciples that he was destined to go to Jerusalem and suffer grievously at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, to be put to death and to be raised up on the third day. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. 'Heaven preserve you, Lord;' he said 'this must not happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle in my path, because the way you think is not God's way but man's.' Then Jesus said to his disciples, 'If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life? For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of his Father with his angels, and, when he does, he will reward each one according to his behaviour.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Remember last week, when Saint Peter got it right? Well, today he gets it very wrong! The strength of Jesus' condemnation ("Get behind me, Satan!") is almost excessive – something Peter said obviously "touched a nerve." Perhaps the answer comes in the last line of last week's Gospel – where Jesus gives the disciples strict instruction not to tell anyone he is the Christ. Did you wonder about that when you read it? Surely the whole point is to "Go out to the whole world, proclaim the Good News!" But Jesus knows what people are like, and he understands his own temptations (remember them?) People will see the Christ – the Messiah – as a King, who will defeat the Romans, bring back the Kingdom, make Israel great again. He will be crowned and powerful and mighty – but this is not who the Messiah is, it is NOT who Jesus is. Just as Jesus rejected the devil's temptations, when he promised him earthly power, so now Jesus rejects Peter's desire for him to be the Messiah he is not. He is the suffering servant, the sacrifice that takes our sins away, the humble king who rides a donkey and who knows that he must die so that other may live.

A Thought for our Younger

Friends

You might have read C. S. Lewis' book *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* – one of the Narnia series. If so, you may remember the story of how Eustace turned into a dragon, because he was greedy and wanted gold. But it didn't do him any good! Fortunately Aslan was able to turn him back when Eustace repented (this story is all

about confession, by the way!) Eustace became something he wasn't meant to be, and suffered because of it. Jesus will not do that – Peter seems to want to make him a king today, but Jesus recognises that this is not what he is meant to be. Jesus knows who he is, and what he should do. Have you ever wondered about what to do, or perhaps even wanted to be something else, something you are not? Let Jesus help us all find out who we truly are, what we are really meant to be.

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 pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

L: We pray for our young people, as they prepare to return to school; that they may be safe and happy in their learning. We pray too for their teachers and all our school staff. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for an openness to vocations, especially to the priesthood and religious life; that men and women may accept God's call and discover their true purpose in this life. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for all who are in need at this time, that we may respond to Bishop John's call for us to care more and more. 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 this sacred offering, 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: Out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, Jesus humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal. 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: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

L: O God, you are my God, for you I long;

for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

L: So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory.

For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

L: So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

L: For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

A: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Spiritually renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it 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!