



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
6th 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: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Communities, whether families, friends, nations or all humanity, are great when things work out – but what about when things go wrong? Today Jesus gives advice about the day to day functioning of community, and reminds us that it is *his* presence in our midst that enables us to live as *his* people. Before we praise God's glory today, let us pause for a moment to ask God's forgiveness for the times we have "got it wrong."

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, by whom we are re-deemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall

be considered loosed in heaven. I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Two weeks ago we heard about Jesus establishing a "church" on the rock of Saint Peter's faith. The Lord knew well enough that this community of faith would not always work the way it should – it is made up of human beings, after all! So today he talks about what to do when things go wrong. There are three main points in this Gospel.

1. Jesus gives authority to the church on earth to sort out its problems, even to the point of heaven accepting the judgments of the faithful and responding to their prayers.
2. This authority is guaranteed by the presence of Jesus "*where two or three are gathered*"
3. The church must be persistent in seeking reconciliation – the door is not to be closed, but effort after effort must be made to bring people together again.

Whether we identify with the Church at Parish, Diocese or a global level, we must remember that our community belongs to the Lord, and must welcome his presence and walk in his ways – even when we fall out with one another! One final point: in the developing response to wrongdoing, the climax is to "*treat someone like a pagan or a tax-collector.*" While we may immediately think we understand what this is saying, just pause for a second and ask yourself: how did Jesus treat pagans and tax-collectors?

A Thought for our Younger Friends

When people fall out, Jesus wants them to sort it, to be reconciled. He gives a long list of things that people should do in order to make things

better. Perhaps you have had experience of falling out with someone at school or at home. What "rules" would you write to help sort things out and help people get along better together? See if you can come up with your list!

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: Let us pray in this season of Creation, for better ways of living in this wonderful world God has entrusted to us. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for peace and reconciliation in our world, our communities and our homes. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for all we know who are worried or anxious, all who feel isolated or abandoned, all who know grief and pain. 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: O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking spiritually of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: The Lord, Jesus, by his birth brought renewal to humanity's fallen state, and by his suffering, cancelled out our sins; by his rising from the dead he has opened the way to eternal life, and by ascending to you, O Father, he has unlocked the gates of heaven. 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 that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

L: Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

A: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

L: Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us:
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

A: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

L: O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

A: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. 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!