



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
20th 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: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Today Jesus continues to teach us about the depths of God's mercy, especially asking us not to be jealous of the "latecomers" who receive His forgiveness to the same degree as those who "come early." Let us pray that we may always give thanks for God's mercy, wherever it is given. To begin our Sunday prayers, we ask for that mercy for all our sins:

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, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 20:1-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay

them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Our Gospels recently have really been hammering home the teaching about the generosity (almost the foolish generosity) of God's mercy, and today is no different. This parable is all about repentance and coming into God's kingdom – the vineyard of the story. Some people have been faithful believers for years, while some arrive at the last minute – or "at the eleventh hour" in the story. The challenging aspect of this parable is that God will forgive *even at the last minute* – if repentance is genuine. Perhaps something in us rebels against this – "I've been a good Catholic for sixty, seventy, eighty years – I deserve more than some new convert!" This is jealousy and envy, and it is denying God the love for every single person, whoever they are or whatever they have done. God's generosity is something that we have all received (see last week's Gospel!) and so we should never begrudge that mercy to another.

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Imagine you have a naughty little brother or sister, while you are always really good. One day, little brother or sister does something really good, and mum or dad keep on praising them and saying how wonderful they are! Perhaps they buy them a special present, just for doing one good thing! Might you feel a bit grumpy? A bit jealous? But Jesus is saying that this is what God is like – he is always happy when people do things right, even when it takes a long time, or when they have done something wrong! Have a think about how we should do the right things not to be rewarded, but because they are good, and think if you have ever felt jealous or grumpy because someone else has been praised for doing right.

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: As we continue in the season of Creation, we pray for countries that do not have a fair share of the resources of this earth, that those of us in prosperous nations may seek to share generously and fairly. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for the Church, especially that we are never jealous of those who receive God's mercy, even after a lifetime far from his grace. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for all who suffer in our world today, victims of natural disasters, famine and flood, all our sick and housebound brothers and sisters, all the bereaved and all who have died. 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: Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the prayers of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: For through his Paschal Mystery, the Lord Jesus accomplished the marvellous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light. 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 Lord is close to all who call him.

A: The Lord is close to all who call him.

L: I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. The Lord is great, highly to be praised, his greatness cannot be measured.

A: The Lord is close to all who call him.

L: The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

A: The Lord is close to all who call him.

L: The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts.

A: The Lord is close to all who call him.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. 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!