

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Sunday 26 July 2020

**For Families and Households
During Social Isolation**

The Introductory Rites

Gathering

A Bible may be placed on a table together with a candle and a cross.

Sign of the Cross

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

Greeting

Leader: Blessed be Jesus who makes us one, and strengthens us
by the power of his Spirit.

All: **Blessed be God forever.**

Leader

(in these or similar words):

Friends in Christ,
although we cannot celebrate the Eucharist this day,
we gather in God's name
for when two or more come together God is always with us.
We worship in union with the whole Church
keeping this day of the Lord holy.

Leader:

Before listening to the Word of God
let us praise the Lord Jesus Christ.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you help us to discern what is right: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:

Christ Jesus, your word is worth more than silver or gold: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader:

Lord Jesus, you promise us a share in your glory: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader:

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All:

Amen.

Opening Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All pause for silent prayer.

God most holy
your gifts are all around us
but we do not always see them.
Help us to seek your goodness
and follow where you lead,
for your love for us is the greatest gift of all.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

1 Kgs 3:5.7-12

A reading from the first book of the Kings

You have asked for wisdom.

The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and said, 'Ask what you would like me to give you.' Solomon replied, 'Lord, my God, you have made your servant king in succession to David my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of yours that you have chosen, a people so many its numbers cannot be counted or reckoned. Give your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil, for who could govern this people of yours that is so great?' It pleased the Lord that Solomon should have asked for this. 'Since you have asked for this' the Lord said 'and not asked for long life for yourself or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd as none before you has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 118:57. 72. 76-77. 127-130. R. v.97

(R.) Lord, I love your commands.

1. My part, I have resolved, O Lord,
is to obey your word.
The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. *(R.)*
2. Let your love be ready to console me
by your promise to your servant.
Let your love come to me and I shall live
for your law is my delight. *(R.)*
3. That is why I love your commands
more than finest gold.
That is why I rule my life by your precepts:
I hate false ways. *(R.)*
4. Your will is wonderful indeed;
therefore I obey it.
The unfolding of your word gives light
and teaches the simple. *(R.)*

Second Reading

Rom 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

He predestined us to become true images of his Son.

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those that he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified he shared his glory.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

He sells everything he owns and buys the field.

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A short period of reflection may be observed.

Profession of Faith

Leader: In union with the whole Church let us profess our faith.

All: I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.
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.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: "Ask what you would like me to give you," said the Lord to Solomon.
Humbly, we bring our own needs and petitions before the Lord.

1. For the Pope: that he may be granted a discerning heart to govern God's people, the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For bishops, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and all who make personal sacrifices in the service of God's kingdom: that their generosity may inspire vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray to the Lord.

3. For world leaders: that they may use their power and influence for the good of all, and stand firm against the lure of greed; may they work together to eliminate the Covid-19 virus. Let us pray to the Lord.

4. For all the elderly, the housebound, and the infirm, that in this time of isolation from families and friends, they may know the comfort and presence of the Lord Jesus in their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

5. For young people in our world today, especially those searching for meaning in their lives: that they may find what most deeply satisfies the human spirit. Let us pray to the Lord.

6. For Bobbie Forde, Vivencio Souribio, Marie Healy,... who died recently, those who have died from the Covid-19 virus, and those whose anniversaries occur; may they come to the richness of life with God for ever. Let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: Good and loving Father,
hear the prayers of those who love you,
through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All: 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.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.
Amen.**

The Concluding Rite

Blessing

Leader: May the Lord be with us and protect us, now and for ever.

All make the sign of the cross during the blessing.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

Leader: Let us go in peace, glorifying the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

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