

# SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

For Families and Households during Social Isolation

## The Introductory Rites

*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.**

**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.

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, you show mercy to all: Lord, have mercy.

**All:** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader:** Christ Jesus, you reward those who come to you in faith: Christ, have mercy.

**All:** **Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader:** Lord Jesus, in you we are reconciled: 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, our helper and friend  
you welcome all people with one embrace  
and include strangers and refugees.  
Help us to offer the hand of Christian friendship,  
especially to those who come from other places.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

**All:** **Amen.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### First Reading

[Is 56:1.6-7](#)

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

*I will lead the foreigners to my holy mountain.*

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants – all who observe the sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Responsorial Psalm*

Ps 66:2-3 5-6. 8. R. v.4

(R.) O God, let all the nations praise you!

1. O God, be gracious and bless us  
and let your face shed its light upon us.  
So will your ways be known upon earth  
and all nations learn your saving help. (R.)
2. Let the nations be glad and exult  
for you rule the world with justice.  
With fairness you rule the peoples,  
you guide the nations on earth. (R.)
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
May God still give us his blessing  
till the ends of the earth revere him. (R.)

*Second Reading*

Rom 11:13-15. 29-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

*The gifts and call of God are irrevocable.*

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now – and only because of the mercy shown to you – will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel*

**Reader:** From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Mt 15:21-28

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Woman, you have great faith.*

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

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:** Let us ask the Lord to open our eyes to the needs of those in our community and beyond.

1. For the Pope, as our pastoral leader and guide: may the Lord bless him as he journeys with his flock, making sure that no one is left behind. Lord, hear us.
2. For all bishops, priests and leaders in the Church: that they respond with compassion and kindness to those who are entrusted to their pastoral care. Lord, hear us.
3. For the entire people of God: that they may know that they are called to holiness in all aspects of their lives - at home, at work and at leisure. Lord, hear us.
4. For Fr Hoctor and those who were ordained with him who are celebrating their fortieth anniversary of ordination today; and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Lord, hear us.
5. For all who are suffering with the Covid-19 virus, and for those who care for them: that they may find healing and peace. Lord, hear us.
6. For all who have died believing in Jesus as their Saviour, especially Alma Boyle, Fr Michael Wheeler, ... who died recently, and those whose anniversaries occur, and those who have died as a result of Covid-19. Lord, hear us.

**Leader:** God our loving Father,  
your help is near to all who call upon you.  
Hear our prayers and bless us today and always,  
through your Son, 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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