

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Sunday 30 Aug 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.

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.

All: Lord Jesus, you suffered death for our sake: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

All: Christ Jesus, your love is better than life: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

All: Lord Jesus, you call us to take up the cross and follow you: 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 Father
Jesus gave his life for us
and showed us the pathway to heaven.
Help us to give all we have
and, in the footsteps of the cross,
follow Jesus every day.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, one God
for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

20:7-9

Jeremiah

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the Lord God has meant derision for me.

You have seduced me, Lord, and I have let myself be seduced;
you have overpowered me: you were the stronger.
I am a daily laughing-stock,
everybody's butt.
Each time I speak the word, I have to howl
and proclaim: 'Violence and ruin!'
The word of the Lord has meant for me
insult, derision, all day long.
I used to say, I will not think about him,
I will not speak in his name any more.
Then there seemed to be a fire burning in my heart,
imprisoned in my bones.
The effort to restrain it wearied me,
I could not bear it.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 62:2-6. 8-9. R. v.2

(R.) My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

1. 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. **(R.)**
2. 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. **(R.)**
3. 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. **(R.)**
4. 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. **(R.)**

Second Reading

12:1-2

Romans

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

May you present your bodies as a living sacrifice.

Think of God's mercy, my brothers, and worship him, I beg you, in a way that is worthy of thinking beings, by offering your living bodies as a holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God. Do not model yourselves on the behaviour of the world around you, but let your behaviour change, modelled by your new mind. This is the only way to discover the will of God and know what is good, what it is that God wants, what is the perfect thing to do.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Mt 16:21-27

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself.

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.

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: Like the psalmist raising hands in prayer, we lift up our hearts confidently to the God who receives our petitions.

1. Let us pray for our Pope and bishops that they may guide us to imitate Christ and to follow him
by accepting our own crosses. Lord, hear us.
2. Let us pray for the leaders of governments that in this time of pandemic they may put aside their own ambitions and hopes, and serve those who are in the greatest need in our communities. Lord, hear us.
3. Let us pray for our persecuted brothers and sisters in every part of the world: that they may persevere in faith and courage, and that their trust in God will never fail. Lord, hear us.
4. Let us pray for nurses, doctors and all who look after those who are infected with the corona virus: that in caring they may come to see that they are caring for Christ himself; and that they may be properly protected from the virus itself. Lord, hear us.
5. Let us pray for human traffickers, for drug pushers and for all who cause harm to others:

that they may recognise the evil they do and be brought to a change of heart. Lord, hear us.

6. Let us pray for those who have died recently, Bernadine Nelson, Lina Bevinetto, Len Brooks,
..., those who have died from the Covid-19 virus, and all whose anniversaries occur. Lord, hear
us.

Leader: Lord God,
as we give thanks for the example of your Son,
we pray that we may have courage to follow him as true disciples;
we make our prayers
through the same 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

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.

Leader: Let us go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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