

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Sunday 06 Sep 2020
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.

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are in our midst: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you have entrusted to us the Good News of reconciliation:
Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you call us to live your commandment of love: 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 help
you call us together as one
united in Jesus, our saviour and brother.
Help us to care for each other
and work together in Jesus' name
so that we may build a kingdom of peace.
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

Ez 33:7-9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

If you have not warned the wicked man, then I will hold you responsible for his death.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 94:1-2.6-9. R. v.8

(R.) O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

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

Second Reading

Rom 13:8-10

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

Love is the fulfilment of the Law.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mt 18:15-20

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

If your brother or sister listens to you, you will have won that person back.

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 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.

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,
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.**

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary, all bow.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Let us bring to the Lord our prayers for all in need and especially for those today who suffer for their beliefs.

1. For all the members of the Church: that we may recognise our constant need of God, and that we may open ourselves to the gifts that God has given us for our good and that of our brothers and sisters. We pray to the Lord.
2. For all who are suffering or being oppressed for their Christian faith: that God will comfort and strengthen them and bring them safely through their trial. And for all who are suffering from the Covid-19 virus. We pray to the Lord.
3. For all our retired priests: that their service of God's people will bring them lasting joy, and that we may support them and continue to learn from them, especially those priests who have served in our parishes. We pray to the Lord.

4. For our fathers, that in imitation of God our Father, they may lead and guide us with wisdom, prudence and love. May all fathers know the gratitude and respect of their children. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all who are in need within our community; for those who are poor, ill with Covid-19, lonely and isolated and the homeless: that God will open our eyes and hearts to recognise and respond to their needs. We pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died recently, especially ..., those who have died with Covid-19, our departed fathers, the departed priests who have served us, and those whose anniversaries occur. We pray to the Lord.

Leader: God our Father,
your help is near to all who call upon you.
Hear our prayers and bless us in our daily lives,
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.**

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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