

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Sunday 20 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 call us to turn back to you: Lord, have mercy.
All: **Lord, have mercy.**

All: Christ Jesus, your generosity is boundless: Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

All: Lord Jesus, in you, the last will be first: Lord, have mercy.
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.

Living God
you are generous and kind
and call us to work in the fields of your kingdom.
May we always be thankful
for the many gifts you have given us.
Help us to use these gifts wisely
so that we may build your kingdom on earth.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Is 55:6-9

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near.

Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.

Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above
your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 144:2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R. v.18

(R.) The Lord is near to all who call him.

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

Second Reading

Phil 1:20-24. 27

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians

For me to live is Christ.

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Mt 20:1-16

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Why are you jealous because I am generous?

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.

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 pray for those who are suffering, and for God's blessing on the Church, that we may all hear and accept the invitation of God to lead lives of goodness and peacefulness.

1. For all God's holy and faithful people: that we may live out the love and mercy of God. Let us pray to the Lord.
2. For all who bear the cross of sickness and sorrow, and especially those suffering from Covid-19: that they may know God's love and care and find that peace which passes all understanding. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. For all who work in the various Catholic Social Service agencies and apostolates who care for the sick, especially now, those with Covid 19; those who visit prisons and detention centres; those who help families in distress through homelessness, poverty and unemployment; refugees

and migrants; individuals suffering mental health and other problems. All all who reach out to others in need in our parishes. Let us pray to the Lord.

4. For those who have not yet heard God's call and those who are resisting it: that they may come to know the Lord's love and mercy. Let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our partnered parishes: that we may be welcoming and open to all whom the Lord is calling into his kingdom. Let us pray to the Lord.
6. For the faithful whose work in the Lord's vineyard is done, especially Patricia Ward, Damian Van der Linden, Pat Plowman, Colleen Plowman, ... who died recently; for those who have died with Covid-19; and for those whose anniversaries occur: that they may receive the reward of all their labours. Let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: God our Father,
we can do nothing without your help.
Grant to us and to all for whom we pray
the strength, fulfilment and joy that comes from 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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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