

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
27 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.

Opening Rite

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

A brief period of silence follows.

Leader: Lord Jesus, make us know your ways: Lord, have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you call us to have a change of heart: Christ, have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you became one like us: 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.

Almighty God,
you lift us up and showed us the path to eternal life.
May the Spirit of Jesus fill our hearts
so that we may always be ready
to choose what is right and good.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Ez 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

The sinner who decides to turn against sinfulness deserves to live.

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: 'You object, "What the Lord does is unjust." Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself

has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **(R.)**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **(R.)**
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **(R.)**

Second Reading

Phil 2:1-11

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

In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God
but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.
But God raised him high and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mt 21:28-32

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

He went out moved by regret. The tax collectors and prostitutes will precede you into the kingdom of God.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus

said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

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 turn to our heavenly Father and put before him our needs.

1. We pray for the Church: that all her members may understand the folly of the cross and rejoice in the power of its message of love and hope. Lord, hear us.
2. We pray for world leaders: that they may not put their faith in power and weapons of war but follow Christ's concern for those who are weak and poor. Lord, hear us.
3. We pray for all those who are suffering from the Covid-19 virus: that they may see in Christ's suffering a source of comfort and healing. Lord, hear us.
4. We pray, in this Season of Creation, for the 'common home' that we enjoy: that all will work together to protect the environment and the creation that God has entrusted to us. Lord, hear us.
5. We pray for all students approaching the end of their secondary education or tertiary courses: that they will look to the future with confidence and wisely choose their path of life. Lord, hear us.
6. We pray for those who have died, especially Eileen Doidge, ... who died recently; those who have died from the Corona virus; and those whose anniversaries we keep at this time: that they may enjoy the fruits of Christ's resurrection. Lord, hear us.

Leader: Heavenly Father,
hear all these our prayers
and what we ask in faith
may you grant through your Son,
Jesus Christ, who is Lord for ever and ever.

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.**

Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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