

SUNDAY PRAYER SERVICE
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A
Sunday 25 Oct 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.**

Greeting

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 the model for all believers: Lord, have mercy.
All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you hear the cries of the poor: Christ, have mercy.
All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you command us to love God and each other: 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
you have called us to love you with our whole being.
Help us to live out your commandment of love
by serving you and loving our neighbour.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Ex 22:20-26

A reading from the book of Exodus

If you are harsh with the widow or the orphan, my anger will rage against you.

The Lord said to Moses, 'Tell the sons of Israel this, "You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt. You must not be harsh with the widow, or with the orphan; if

you are harsh with them, they will surely cry out to me, and be sure I shall hear their cry; my anger will flare and I shall kill you with the sword, your own wives will be widows, your own children orphans.

"If you lend money to any of my people, to any poor man among you, you must not play the usurer with him: you must not demand interest from him.

"If you take another's cloak as a pledge, you must give it back to him before sunset. It is all the covering he has; it is the cloak he wraps his body in; what else would he sleep in? If he cries to me, I will listen, for I am full of pity."

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 17:2-4. 47. 51. R. v.2

(R.) I love you, Lord, my strength.

1. I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour.
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes. **(R.)**
2. Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed. **(R.)**

Second Reading

1 Thess 1:5-10

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

You turned away from idols to serve God and await his Son.

You observed the sort of life we lived when we were with you, which was for your instruction, and you were led to become imitators of us, and of the Lord; and it was with the joy of the Holy Spirit that you took to the gospel, in spite of the great opposition all round you. This has made you the great example to all believers in Macedonia and Achaia since it was from you that the word of the Lord started to spread – and not only throughout Macedonia and Achaia, for the news of your faith in God has spread everywhere. We do not need to tell other people about it: other people tell us how we started the work among you, how you broke with idolatry when you were converted to God and became servants of the real, living God; and how you are now waiting for Jesus, his Son, whom he raised from the dead, to come from heaven to save us from the retribution which is coming.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mt 22:34-40

Reader: From the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

You shall love the Lord your God and your neighbour as yourself.

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: you must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

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.**

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

Leader: Let us bring our prayers for our neighbours
and all who are in need to God our loving Father.

1. We pray for Pope Francis and the Bishops of the Church: that through their words and example Christ's commandment of love will spread through our world. Lord, hear us.
2. We pray for the members of the Church, that our love of God will be seen in the practical ways we reach out to those suffering from Covid-19, to refugees and migrants, to those who are hungry, those who are homeless, and those without work. Lord, hear us.
3. We pray for small business owners and those who work in the hospitality industry that their voices will be heard and heeded as we emerge from lockdown; and for all who are seeking employment. Lord, hear us.
4. We pray for all students coming to the end of their school years and uncertain of the future. May they have wise and attentive mentors and guides. Lord, hear us.
5. We pray for those who have lost hope in this difficult time; and for the elderly in aged care, and all who are living alone; and for those who will have surgery this week. Lord, hear us.
6. We pray for the faithful departed, especially Kathleen Miller,... who died recently, those who have died as a result of the pandemic, and those whose anniversaries occur. Lord, hear us.

Leader: God our Father,
your Son has taught us to love you above all things,
and our neighbour as ourselves.
We ask you to hear the prayers we offer through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

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 to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

© The scriptural quotations are taken from the Jerusalem Bible, published and copyright 1966, 1967 and 1968 by Darton Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co Inc, and used by permission of the publishers.

The English translation of the Psalm Responses, the Alleluia and Gospel Verses, and the Lenten Gospel Acclamations, and the Titles, Summaries, and Conclusion of the Readings, from the Lectionary for Mass © 1997, 1981, 1968, International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc. All rights reserved.

The prayers are from the English Translation of the Roman Missal © 2010 International Committee on English in the Liturgy Inc. (ICEL). All rights reserved.