



# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

25<sup>th</sup> October 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

**A: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.**

### Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**A: Amen.**

### Introduction

L: There are massive numbers of huge volumes of Catholic Theology which weigh down shelves in Presbyteries, Seminaries and our own homes: and yet today Jesus sums up our faith in two simple commandments. We should allow his simple and forthright words to speak to us today, so that we may do all that pleases God. As we think about these commandments of love, let's praise God and ask for mercy, saying:

### Gloria

**A: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you**

**alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Opening Prayer

L: Let us pray. Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**A: Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Gospel Reading *Matthew 22:34-40*

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.

**A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### Reflection

Every priest has probably experienced that moment when someone asks the profoundest question at the most inappropriate moment! Like asking about life after death at the supermarket checkout, or the meaning of life over the booming disco of a

wedding reception! Sometimes people want a simple, short, snappy answer to the things that puzzle us, or challenge us most. All of us, in a sense, are searching for a simple answer to the question "What is life for? What's it all about?" Even though Jesus is asked this question by yet another band of opponents trying to catch him out, his simple answer resonates through the ages – from the Old Testament to ourselves. It's very simple, really: love God, love others. This is all we have to do. Of course, putting that into practice is the job of a lifetime, and will be filled with successes and failures, certainty and doubt, enthusiasm and lethargy. Let us pray that we may take these two simple commandments and "write them on our hearts" so that every single day, everywhere we go, everything we say or do, will spring from love of God and love of neighbour. And if you want a highly effective prayer for the end of the day, simply find a quiet spot, be in the presence of God and ask "Have I loved you today, Lord? Have I loved others?" Thank God for the ways you have, ask God's mercy for the ways you haven't.

### For our Younger Friends

Grown ups can complicate things sometimes, can't they?! Jesus gives us two very, very simple rules today: love God and love other people. Easy to remember, but not always easy to do. As we grow up, we get better at making exceptions and excuses – very young children are good at loving other people (think of a baby's smile!) and as

we get to know about God we can love God. But when our lives start to fill up with other things – my toys and books and games, my money, my friends, my Instagram followers, and so on – we can forget Jesus' simple rules. Write them out somewhere to remind yourself what Jesus asks us to do – just four words: "LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS"!

*If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to discuss what this Gospel passage means to you. If alone, think about what key message you take from the Scriptures today.*

### **Profession of Faith**

**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.**

### **Intercessions**

L: Let us think of our prayers for this Sunday.

L: We pray for the world in which we live, that peoples and nations may heed the call of Pope Francis to fraternal love, the commandment Jesus proclaims in the Gospel. Lord, in your mercy ...

#### **A: Hear our prayer.**

L: Let us pray for the Church, that we may strive to show our love for God and neighbour in all our activities. Lord, in your mercy ...

#### **A: Hear our prayer.**

L: Let us pray for our local needs, especially for people who are lonely, distressed or afraid –

especially those whose lives continue to be impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Lord, in your mercy ...

#### **A: Hear our prayer.**

*Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.*

## **THE COMMUNION RITE**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**A: 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. Amen.**

L: Look, we pray, O Lord, on all that we offer to your majesty, that whatever is done by us in your service may be directed above all to your glory. Through Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

### **Before Spiritual Communion**

L: Almighty Father, in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal. For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

### **Spiritual Communion**

**A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.**

*Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.*

### **Thanksgiving Psalm**

L: I love you, Lord, my strength.

**A: I love you, Lord, my strength.**

L: 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.

**A: I love you, Lord, my strength.**

L: 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.

**A: I love you, Lord, my strength.**

## **THE CONCLUDING RITES**

### **Final Prayer and Blessing**

L: Let us pray. May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray, perfect in us what lies within them, that what we now celebrate in signs we may one day possess in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen.**

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**A: Amen.**

L: Let us bless the Lord!

**A: Thanks be to God!**