



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 4th July 2021

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 prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon Cf. Ps 47: 10-11

A: Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Sad to say, we quite often like people to stay in the "boxes" we have put them in: we judge people, and do not allow them to grow or change. This is what happens to Jesus in today's Gospel, when he is amazed at the lack of faith of the people he has grown up with, as they reject the possibility that he could be a prophet of God! We do recognise who Jesus is, and thank God for sending him to us: as we welcome Jesus this Sunday, we praise God's glory, saying together:

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.

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness. 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

Mark 6:1-6

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

There's a phrase we use: "familiarity breeds contempt." This could well describe the Gospel story we have just heard: the people of Jesus' home town were so familiar with him as "the carpenter" that they were filled with contempt at the thought he could be anything different! Perhaps there are two

messages for us in this story: first, don't "pigeon-hole" people, locking them into what you have already decided is their "place in life." The people of Jesus' hometown were deprived of his grace, because they could not see beyond "the carpenter" to the prophet God was sending them. They, who should have welcomed him and his message with open arms, had their eyes and minds and hearts closed to the possibility that he could be a prophet. We should be careful never to "lock" people into the place we think they should occupy, because by doing so we too may miss out on God's graces sent through them. The second message is that we should be careful not to take our faith for granted: familiarity with our prayers or "religious routines" can blunt their effectiveness. In the Gospel the people are surprised by Jesus: he shakes them out of their routine. We should be open to God's surprises, and not be astonished when God displays his love for us!

For our Younger Friends

Imagine someone in your class, who has never showed any interest in football. Suddenly one day they announce that they are going to try out for the school team. Everyone laughs at them, and tells them not to be so silly! But what no one knows is that have been practising playing football quietly for ages, and are really brilliant! But because no one will give them a chance (not even the teachers), they don't get on the team, and your school loses the tournament! Everyone misses out, because someone wasn't given a

chance. Does that remind you of the Gospel story today? Jesus wasn't given a chance, and as a result all the people of that town missed out. What's the message for us? Don't think you know everything about everyone – sometimes people can surprise us!

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 pray that the grace of God will be with us in every circumstance.

We ask God to sustain the church when in the weakness of faith and wisdom believers dismiss the prophetic word of life. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

We call on God's power to break through hateful attitudes that diminish the spiritual vitality of families and faith communities. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

We implore God to renew the moral integrity of societies weakened by disregard for human life and the well-being of the poor. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

We look to God's love to uphold the faith of the terminally ill that they may not despair. 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: May our worship this day purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people, formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit, might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church. Jesus, your Son, taking bread and wine, the fruits of the earth, at the Last Supper, gave himself as a perfect offering to you, and to be with his friends always. 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.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already

there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.

A: Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.

L: To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens; my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords.

A: Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.

L: Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy.

A: Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.

L: Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain.

A: Our eyes are on the Lord till he shows us his mercy.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been spiritually replenished by your great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you. 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!

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