

# THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)  
5<sup>th</sup> September 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 Sunday prayers.



## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Entrance Antiphon** Ps 118: 137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**Sign of the Cross**

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

A: Amen.

**Introduction**

L: Today our Gospel is another story of healing – of which there are so many in the Gospels! And yet each one is different and unique, as Jesus confronts the situation of each person who comes to him seeking healing. Notice how Jesus does more than is asked – they simply want him to “lay his hands on”, but he takes the man away for a lengthy private consultation! Notice too that Jesus does not work this miracle for public praise, but simply out of love and concern. Let us “be opened” to this Jesus, who knows each of us so well, and ask for mercy and healing, praising God as we say:

**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, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 7:31-37

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. 'He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

**Reflection**

"This Gospel narrative emphasizes the need for a twofold

healing. First and foremost the healing from illness and from physical suffering, in order to restore bodily health; even though this aim is not completely achievable on the earthly plane, despite the many efforts of science and medicine. But there is a second, perhaps more difficult healing, and it is healing from fear. Healing from the fear that impels us to marginalize the sick, to marginalize the suffering, the disabled. ... Too often the sick and the suffering become a problem, while they should be an occasion to show a society's concern and solidarity with regard to the weakest. Jesus revealed to us the secret of a miracle that we too can imitate, becoming protagonists of "Ephphatha", of that phrase 'be opened' with which He gave speech and hearing back to the deaf and dumb man. It means opening ourselves to the needs of our brothers and sisters who are suffering and in need of help, by shunning selfishness and hardheartedness. It is precisely the heart, that is the deep core of the person, that Jesus came to "open", to free, in order to make us capable of fully living the relationship with God and with others. He became man so that man, rendered internally deaf and mute by sin, may hear the voice of God, the voice of Love that speaks to his heart, and thereby in turn, may learn to speak the language of love, transforming it into gestures of generosity and self-giving."

Pope Francis, Angelus Message, 9<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**A Thought for our Younger Friends**

Sometimes people think it was easy for Jesus to work miracles – all he had to do was wave his hands and all would be well! Here we see that Jesus had to work

quite hard to heal this man – see how he “sighed” before the man is healed. Sometimes we are asked to help others, and it isn’t always easy. Remember Jesus sighing, and ask him to help you help others this week.

If gathering as a family, perhaps now continue to have a discussion about what this celebration 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: Gathered together in this place as the body of Christ, let our prayers embrace the church and the world.

L: By your Spirit endow Pope Francis, all bishops, and pastors with the wisdom to guide believers to greater unity and peace. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: By the power of your love working through all people of goodwill, help our world to flourish spiritually. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: By your healing love open the ear of the human heart to hear the cries of the poor. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: By the light of your truth help us to safeguard the earth and to foster lifestyles that respect our natural resources. 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: O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this worship, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

### Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience. The night before he died, taking bread and wine, the fruits of the earth, he 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.

### 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 Ps 145(146):7-10

L: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

A: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

L: It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

A: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

L: It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the Lord who loves the just,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger.

A: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

L: The Lord upholds the widow and orphan  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

A: My soul, give praise to the Lord.

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

### Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

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!

DIocese of  SALFORD

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