

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
19TH 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

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Once more we make the Lord's Day holy by our prayers, asking for mercy and healing and 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, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him. They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

"Jesus in the Gospel tells us of a temptation of which we have to be very careful: the desire for primacy and domination over others, which can dwell in every human heart. How often has it happened that one people considers itself superior, with greater acquired rights, with more privileges needing to be preserved or gained.

What is the antidote that Jesus proposes when this impulse appears in our heart or in the heart of any society or country? To be the last of all and the servant of all; to go to the place where no one else wants to go, where no one travels, the furthest peripheries; to serve and come to know the lowly and the rejected. If power had to do with this, if we could allow the Gospel of Jesus Christ to reach the depths of our lives, then the "globalization of solidarity" would be a reality. "In our world, especially in some countries, different forms of war and conflict are re-emerging, yet we Christians remain steadfast in our intention to respect others, to heal wounds, to build bridges, to strengthen relationships and to "bear one another's burdens" (Gal 6:2)". Here in Lithuania, you have a hill of crosses, where thousands of people, over the centuries, have planted the sign of the cross. I ask you to beg Mary to help us all to plant our own cross, the cross of our service and commitment to the needs of others, on that hill where the poor dwell, where care and concern are needed for the outcast and for minorities. In this way, we can keep far from our lives and our cultures the possibility of destroying one another, of marginalizing, of continuing to discard whatever we find troublesome or uncomfortable. Jesus puts a little child in our midst, at the same distance from each of us, so that all of us can feel challenged to respond.

Pope Francis, Homily on Apostolic Visit to Lithuania, 23rd September 2018

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Jesus tells his friends today to be like little children when he catches them arguing about who is the most important – and

yet even children sometimes fall out and argue about the same things! Perhaps Jesus wants us to be more like VERY LITTLE children, who aren't bothered about who's the best! If you have ever fallen out with someone about who is more important, say sorry to Jesus and ask Him to help you be more like a very little child!

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: Let us offer our prayer for the Church and the world.

L: We pray for Christian communities; may our churches be free from jealousy and self-importance, which deadens the spirit. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for healing from all jealousy and greed; may these deadly viruses of the spiritual life not be found among the disciples of Jesus. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those who would use religion and church positions for personal gain; may the example of Christ transform all self-seeking into self-giving. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for wisdom and sincerity in our personal prayer life; may the Spirit teach us how to seek the spiritual gifts that serve God's will

and the common good. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the sick and the economically poor who live in radical dependence on God's care; may their trust be an inspiration to our faith. 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: Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the prayers of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord. 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 Psalm 53(54):3-6,8

L: The Lord upholds my life.

A: The Lord upholds my life.

L: O God, save me by your name; by your power, uphold my cause. O God, hear my prayer; listen to the words of my mouth.

A: The Lord upholds my life.

L: For proud men have risen against me, ruthless men seek my life. They have no regard for God.

A: The Lord upholds my life.

L: But I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart and praise your name for it is good.

A: The Lord upholds my life.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. 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!

