



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 1st August 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 *Ps 69: 2, 6*

A: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: As we continue reading chapter 6 of Saint John's Gospel, Jesus moves on from the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves to the deeper teaching behind the miracle: it was not just about physical food, but about much, much more! We are often preoccupied with the "physical", so let us ask the Lord to open our minds and hearts to what is beyond – the spiritual. Let us praise him this Sunday 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.

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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 *John 6:24-35*

When the people saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they got into boats and crossed to Capernaum to look for Jesus. When they found him on the other side, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, you are not looking for me because you have seen the signs but because you had all the bread you wanted to eat. Do not work for food that cannot last, but work for food that endures to eternal life, the kind of food the Son of Man is offering you, for on him the Father, God himself, has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do if we are to do the works that God wants?' Jesus gave them this answer, 'This is working for God: you must believe in the one he has sent.' So they said, 'What sign will you give to show us that we should believe in you? What work will you do? Our fathers had manna to eat in the desert; as scripture says: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*' Jesus answered: 'I tell you most solemnly, it was not Moses who gave you bread from heaven, it is my Father who gives you the bread from heaven, the true bread; for the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and

gives life to the world.' 'Sir,' they said 'give us that bread always.' Jesus answered: 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never be hungry; he who believes in me will never thirst.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Pope Francis commented on the Gospel of John (6:22-29) on 5th May 2014: There the Evangelist recounts how the crowd, whose hunger was satisfied through Jesus' miraculous multiplication of the loaves and fish, go looking for him "*on the other side of the sea*". The Pope introduced his homily by noting how Jesus "draws the crowd's attention to attitudes which are not good and which, indeed, can be harmful". Jesus admonished them for this attitude: '*Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves*'; as though he had said to them: 'you seek me out of some self-interest'. The Pope then remarked: "I think it is always beneficial for us to ask ourselves: Why do I seek Jesus? Why do I follow Jesus?" The Pope then repeated the question: "Why do I follow Jesus? '*Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves*'. Is there vanity in my following of Jesus? Is the desire for power present? Is the desire for money present? It will do us good to examine our hearts and our consciences a little on the need to have a right intention in following Jesus. Do I follow him for his sake alone? This is the journey of holiness. Or do I follow him for his sake but also in order to gain some personal advantage?" Pope Francis concluded: "Let us ask the Lord for the grace of

sending us the Holy Spirit so that we might follow him with a right intention: for him alone, without vanity, without the desire for power, without the desire for money”.

For our Younger Friends

Jesus reminds us today that life is about more than food – we have to believe in Jesus as the “true bread”. Perhaps you could use this Sunday to think if you spend too much time thinking about food? Or other “physical” things, rather than the things of heaven!

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 we may work for the food that endures to eternal life.

Let us pray for the world; that all work to create new bonds of love and respect among peoples. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for anyone preoccupied with the perishable things of this passing life; may the word of God inspire peoples to invest themselves in God’s work. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the lost, and for all who hunger for spiritual vitality; may the bread of God’s word and the life of the Spirit lead them to deeper intimacy with Christ. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

For those who appear before Christ hungry for eternal life; may the One who is sealed by the resurrection

welcome the dead into heaven’s banquet. 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: Graciously sanctify these prayers, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of our spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, Jesus your Son, at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity. And so, in our minds and hearts we now approach the table of his wondrous Sacrament, so that, bathed in the sweetness of your grace, we may pass over to the heavenly realities here foreshadowed. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we welcome him spiritually into our homes and 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

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: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

A: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

L: The things we have heard and understood, the things our fathers have told us, we will tell them to the next generation: the glories of the Lord and his might.

A: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

L: He commanded the clouds above and opened the gates of heaven. He rained down manna for their food, and gave them bread from heaven.

A: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

L: Mere men ate the bread of angels. He sent them abundance of food; So he brought them to his holy land, to the mountain which his right hand had won.

A: The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

THE CONCLUDING RITE

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.
Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. 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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