

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME



THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
7th November 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 Cf. Ps 87: 3

A: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Sign of the Cross

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

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: We keep the Lord's Day holy by our prayer and worship. Today we hear a simple example of real generosity - not measured by the amount given, but by the cost. Let us open ourselves to the Word of Jesus, that we may be generous, asking for mercy 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.

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are

yours. 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 12:38-44

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.' He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more in than all who have contrib-



uted to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

"The lesson that Jesus offers us today helps us to recover what is essential in our life and fosters a

practical and daily relationship with God. Brothers and sisters, the Lord's scales are different from ours. He weighs people and their actions differently: God does not measure quantity but quality; he examines the heart; he looks at the purity of intentions. This means that our "giving" to God in prayer and to others in charity should always steer clear of ritualism and formalism, as well as of the logic of calculation, and must be an expression of gratuity, as Jesus did with us: he saved us freely. And we must do things as an expression of gratuity. This is why Jesus points to that poor and generous widow as a model of Christian life to be imitated. We do not know her name; however, we know her heart — we will find her in Heaven and go to greet her, certainly; and that is what counts before God. When we are tempted by the desire to stand out and give an accounting of our altruistic gestures, when we are too interested in the gaze of others and — might I say — when we act like 'peacocks', let us think of this woman. It will do us good: it will help us to divest ourselves of the superfluous in order to go to what truly counts, and to remain humble. May the Virgin Mary, a poor woman who gave herself totally to God, sustain us in the aim of giving to the Lord and to brothers and sisters not something of ours but ourselves, in a humble and generous offering."

Pope Francis, Angelus Message 11th November 2018

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Sometimes you might get frustrated or upset, because you want to help someone, but you don't have any money! Jesus gives us a clear message today:

just do what you can. Really wanting to help – really caring – is more important than spending millions of pounds! Perhaps, like the poor woman in the Gospel, you only have a few pennies – are you going to use them well?

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: In Christ we see the generosity of God's love and compassion. Let us pray to be filled with the same generous Spirit.

Christ died for the sake of the sinner; the Just One for the sake of the unjust. In love may we welcome both the grateful and ungrateful repeatedly. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

Jesus praised the widow's generosity. May her example inspire Christians to invest in the gospel from the substance of their lives. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

Jesus criticized leaders who devour the savings of the poor. May the church fearlessly denounce injustice that continues to exploit the economically poor. Lord, in your mercy...

A: Hear our prayer.

Christ's coming in glory will gather the just into the reign of heaven.

May the dead who lived the gospel of compassion be clothed with the mantle of joy. 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 with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the worship offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Loving Father, you have given us Jesus Christ, your Son, as our Lord and Redeemer. He always showed compassion for children and for the poor, for the sick and for sinners, and he became a neighbour to the oppressed and the afflicted. By word and deed he announced to the world that you are our Father and that you care for all your sons and daughters. The night before he died, taking bread and wine, the fruits of the earth, 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.

Prayer for COP26 (Bishop John)

(Please keep this prayer and use it in the coming weeks)

Loving Father, we acknowledge that, either through ignorance or greed, the Earth, our common home, is damaged. That damage is felt most by people who have done little to cause it. Industrialisation has exploited natural resources, endangering wildlife, causing climate change, and resulting in disasters and global warming. Father, forgive us, and guide us in the right way. Send your Spirit to encourage and strengthen our world leaders as they meet at COP26. Cause them to discern the way that we must now go, agreeing the changes and decisions necessary to begin to repair the damage done and to prepare a healthy and secure world for future generations. And we ask Mary, our Mother, to intercede for us, and with us, in our need. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Nourished spiritually by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. 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!

