

# Eleventh Sunday of the Year A



**Entrance Antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Saviour! Psalm 26:7,9**

Jesus had compassion on the people who came to him in their many needs. He has compassion on us too. Therefore, let us turn to him with confidence now, laying our needs before him.

But let us first ask God to forgive our sins:

**I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

**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.**

Let us pray:

O God, strength of those who hope in you, graciously hear our pleas, and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing, grant us always the help of your grace, that in following your commands we may please you by our resolve and our deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Exodus.

Exodus 19:2-6 From Rephidim the sons of

Israel set out again; and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp; there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp. Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying: 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests, a consecrated nation."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 99: 2,3,5

**Response: We are his people, the sheep of his flock.**

Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness.

Come before him, singing for joy. **R/.**

Know that he, the Lord, is God.

He made us, we belong to him,

we are his people, the sheep of his flock. **R/.**

Indeed, how good is the Lord,

eternal his merciful love.

He is faithful from age to age. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans (5:6-11)

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled, surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me  
listen to my voice, says the Lord,  
I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:36-10:8

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, Lord.**

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The 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.**

*Offertory:*

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

*Prayer over the Offerings:*

O God, who in the offerings presented here provide for the twofold needs of human nature, nourishing us with food and renewing us with your sacrament, grant, we pray, that the sustenance they provide may not fail us in body or in spirit. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Preface:*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.  
For 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.  
Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty  
and rejoices in your presence for ever.  
May our voices, we pray, join with theirs  
in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

The mystery of faith. **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,  
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

*Communion Antiphon:* **There is one thing I ask of the Lord,  
only this do I seek:  
to live in the house of the Lord  
all the days of my life. Psalm 26:4**

#### REFLECTION

Compassion

The person in misery does not need  
a look that judges and criticises,  
but a comforting presence.  
Jesus looked at the ordinary people,  
and seeing how needy they were,  
he had compassion on them  
and began to minister to them.  
Compassion means that I suffer with you;  
I accept into my heart the misery in yours;  
I become one with you in your pain.  
I may not be able to relieve that pain,  
but by understanding it and sharing it,  
I make it possible for you to bear it.  
Lord, give us warm and generous hearts  
so that we may be agents of your compassion to others.

#### *Prayer after Communion:*

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord, foreshadows the union of the faithful in you, so may it bring about unity in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### *Final Blessing:*

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**Thanks be to God.**

The word of God is to the human heart what a seed is to the earth. However, just as a seed needs soil, so the word needs a receptive heart. The earth responds to the rain and sun so that even the desert blooms. But the arid human heart has the power to resist so that it remains barren. Lord, soften our hearts with your grace, open them with your gentle love, so that the precious seed of your word may take root in our hearts, and bear fruit in our lives.