

Thirteenth Sunday of the Year A



Entrance Antiphon: **All peoples, clap your hands.
Cry to God with shouts of joy! Psalm 46:2**

We are in God's house. God is the host, we are the guests. We should feel at home here. Just as God accepts us, we should accept one another.

Lord, you heal the wounds of sin. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you came to help us to see one another, not as strangers, but as brothers.. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you help us to make room in our hearts for the lost, the lonely, the rejected. 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, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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 second book of Kings.

2 Kings 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband: 'Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.'

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. 'What can be done for her?' he asked. Gehazi, his servant, answered: 'Well, she has no son and her husband is old.' Elisha said: 'Call her.' The servant called her and she stood at the door. 'This time next year,' Elisha said, 'you will hold a son in your arms.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 88

Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever,
that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. **R/.**

Happy the people who acclaim such a king,
who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your justice the source of their bliss. **R/.**

For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength;
it is by your favour that our might is exalted:
for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord;
our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel. **R/.**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-4. 8-11

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that, having died with Christ, we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 10: 37-42

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows: 'Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me. Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet's reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man's reward.

If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. 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 Offering:

O God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts. 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 you laid the foundations of the world
and have arranged the changing of times and seasons;
you formed man in your own image
and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder,

to rule in your name over all you have made
and for ever praise you in your mighty works,
through Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you,
as in joyful celebration 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. **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Communion Antiphon: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.**

REFLECTION

The circle around my life

Much of our lives is spent in keeping people out.
We have private houses, private clubs, private beaches ...
Of course there are times when we need to be alone.
Yet there is a sense in which our size as human beings
can be measured by the circles we draw to take other people in:
The smaller the circle, the smaller the person.
A strong person isn't afraid of people who are different.
A wise person welcomes them.
By shutting other people out we deny ourselves
the riches of other people's experience.
We starve our minds, and harden our hearts.
In the beginning God gave the earth its shape.
He made it round ... He included everybody. So should we.

Prayer after Communion:

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you:

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

Thanks be to God.

Helping Hand

Lend a hand ... a helping hand,
wherever you may be;
have the will, and you won't lack the opportunity;
you will find that you'll be guided, as you go along,
you will get your chance
to help the weak, and right the wrong.

Here and there and everywhere,
there's someone in a hole ...
Someone in distress of mind, somebody to console,,
someone up against it, fighting poverty or grief,
someone hoping against hope,
and praying for relief.

Use your hands for selfish gain,
and when life's sun has set,
through your fingers you will sift the ashes of regret ...
Use them in the service of the stranger and the friend
and you will not have lived in vain
on reaching journey's end.

When life becomes a problem
much too great to bear,
Instead of trying to escape,
let us withdraw in prayer ...

For withdrawal means renewal
if we withdraw to pray
and listen in the quietness
to hear what God will say...

Feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is
like wrapping a present and not giving it.

William Arthur Ward

If the only prayer you say in your whole
life is "thank you," that would suffice.

Meister Eckhart