

Sixteenth Sunday of the Year A



Entrance Antiphon: See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good. *Psalm 53:6,8.*

We go to church not because we are saints, but because we are sinners, sinners who know that we are sinners, but who are willing to strive for something better. And God is patient with us, and lenient in his judgements.

Lord you are good and forgiving to all who call you. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you are merciful and abounding in kindness. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, show us your way to walk in your truth. 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:

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands. 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 book of Wisdom

Wisdom 12: 13.16-19

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly. Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all. You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will and your power is there. By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 85:5-6.9-10.15-16

Response: O Lord, you are good and forgiving

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of love to all who call.

Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my voice.

Response

All the nations shall come to adore you
and glorify your name, O Lord:
for you are great and do marvellous deeds,
you who alone are God.

Response

But you, God of mercy and compassion,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abounding in love and truth,
turn and take pity on me.

Response

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans

Romans 8:26-27

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts, knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see
what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 13: 24-43

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus put a parable before the crowds:

"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said: 'Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?' 'Some enemy has done this,' he answered. And the servants said: 'Do you want us to go and weed it out?' But he said: 'No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn.'" *

He put another parable before them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through."

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed, he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said: "Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us." He said in reply: "The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

** Shorter version in between asterisks*

The Apostles' Creed

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 Offering:

O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, this sacrifice from your faithful servants and make it holy, as you blessed the gifts of Abel, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 in you we live and move and have our being,
and while in this body

And with your spirit.

We lift them up to the Lord.

It is right and just.

we not only experience the daily effects of your care,
but even now possess the pledge of life eternal.
For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit,
through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead,
we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery.
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: **When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

Communion Antiphon: **The Lord, the gracious, the merciful,
has made a memorial of his wonders;
he gives food to those who fear him. Psalm 10:4-5**

REFLECTION:

On the day of the harvest the straw is set aside, the chaff is blown away by the wind, and the weeds are consigned to the flames. But the wheat, like sacks of gold, is gathered into the barn. Lord, on the day of death, the harvest of my life will be poured out before you, wheat and chaff and weeds together. Let your wise hand sift through it; then keep what is worth keeping, and with the breath of your kindness, blow the rest away.

Prayer after Communion:

Graciously be present to your people, we pray, O Lord, and lead those you have imbued with heavenly mysteries to pass from former ways to newness of life. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you
May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Go forth, the Mass is ended.

And with your spirit.

Amen.

Thanks be to God.

'Faith has to do with things that are not seen and **hope** with things that are not in hand.'

Thomas Aquinas

'Lord help me to work to bring about the things I pray for.'

St Thomas More

'Act in such a way that those who come in contact with you will go away joyful. Sow happiness about you because you have received much from God. *'St Faustina*

'Prayer is an aspiration of the heart, it is a simple glance directed to heaven. It is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial and of joy.' *St Theresa of Lisieux*

A Prayer ...

Father, sometimes I find it so hard to pray, "Thy will be done." I ask for the courage to surrender my life, my will, and even my children to you. Help me to trust that you love me infinitely, that you are good, and that you work all things together for my good, my sanctification, and my salvation. I ask for a spirit of acquiescence like our holy Mother, that I may say yes to you in all things, even when I am disappointed, sorrowful, or afraid. Make yourself known in my yes, Father, and may I rest in the knowledge that my yes, united to yours, can only bring forth life. Amen.

May the Lord of the living and the dead
look upon us with resolute kindness
and grant us the comfort of his peace.
When we are confused may he bring insight;
when we are broken, may he mend us and mind us;
when we are dying, may he console us
with the assurance of his loving embrace.
This we ask, in the name of the one
who gave everything of himself to us,
Jesus Christ, our Lord, Amen.

Prayer:

God hear my cry ... I am weak and often lie about the ways in which my mercy dies and justice fades into revenge and retribution without end. I want to give, forgive, forget, and lend but tend, instead, to grab, remember, and give no heed to the cries of the poor, the gasps of those in need. Give me ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart to bleed until justice is eased and equaled with mercy perceived. Amen.