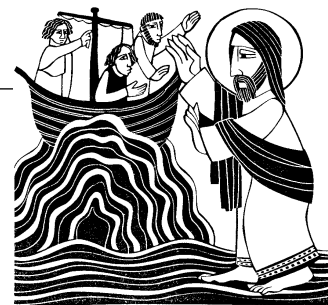


Twentieth Sunday of the Year A

Entrance Antiphon: Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Ps 83:10-11

The foreign woman who came to Jesus to ask for the healing for her daughter is a model of trusting faith. In this celebration, we too come to meet Jesus the Lord, in Word and in the Sacrament.



Lord you meet our needs and listen to our concerns. Lord, have mercy.

You let your wisdom shed its light upon us. Christ, have mercy.

You calm our fears and steady our nerves. Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, 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, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpasses every human desire. 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 Isaiah

Isaiah 56: 1. 6-7

I will bring foreigners to my holy mountain

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with integrity for soon my salvation will come and my integrity be manifest. Foreigners who have attached themselves to the Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his servants - all who observe the Sabbath, not profaning it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 66:2-3. 5-6. 8

**Response: Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help.

R/.

Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth.

R/.

Let the peoples praise you, O God,
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him.

R/.

SECOND READING:

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

11:13-15. 29-32

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people envious of you, and in this way save some of them. Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the world, do you know what their admission will mean? Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God, and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience, so those who are disobedient now - and only because of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind.

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

The Lord be with you.

Matthew 15: 21-28

And with your spirit.

Glory to you, Lord.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman from that district and started shouting: 'Sir, Son of David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her what she wants,' they said, 'because she is shouting after us.' He said in reply: 'I was sent only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she said, 'help me.' He replied: 'It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She retorted: 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then Jesus answered her: 'Woman, you have great faith. Let your wish be granted.' And from that moment her daughter was well again.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us make our profession of faith:

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:

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

And with your spirit.

We lift them up to the Lord.

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

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

REFLECTION:

An Irish Wish

God be good to you in all your days,
God be kind to you in all your ways.
God gives strength to you when crosses lean,
God send light to you, the clouds between.
God give peace to you in times of strife,
God bless everything that fills your life.
God send joy when grief is o'er,
God make way for you at heaven's door.

Prayer after Communion:

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **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.

The Mass is ended. Go in the peace.

Thanks be to God.

Listen Lord ... Lord make me lovable! No one seems to love me, Lord. How do I start being lovable? Help me, Lord, by loving me. If you love me, give me a sign of your concern, for then I shall be happier, and perhaps more attractive to others and they will love me. Show me your love, Lord.

I shall do so much in the years to come,
But what have I done today?
I shall give out gold in princely sum,
But what did I give today?
I shall lift the heart and dry the tear,
I shall plant a hope in the place of fear,
I shall speak with words of love and cheer,
But what have I done today?
I shall be so kind in the after while,
But what have I been today?
I shall bring to each lonely life a smile,
But what have I brought today?
I shall give to truth a grander birth,
And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,
I shall feed the hungering souls of earth,
But whom have I fed today?

Dear God, so often I feel as if I am a lost sheep. I feel alienated and isolated from the rest of the praying community because I do not think their thoughts or share their feelings. Help me to use my woundedness to heal the pain of others. Help me to recognize that my sense of being a foreigner can be salvific, if I let you be my God and truly believe that I am among your chosen ones. Amen.

Parish for English Speaking Catholics—Malta