

Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year A



Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Often we are petty in the way we think and act. Fortunately for us there is nothing small or petty about God. His ways are as high above our ways as the heavens are above the earth. Let us ask God for forgiveness for our smallness of heart, while at the same time opening ourselves to the goodness of God.

Lord, you are kind and full of compassion. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You are just in your ways, loving in your deeds. Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You are close to all who call on you. Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to ever lasting life. Amen

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 founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. 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 55: 6-9

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways - it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 114

Response: The Lord is close to all who call him.

I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.

The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured.

The Lord is close to all who call him.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The Lord is close to all who call him.

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

The Lord is close to all who call him.

SECOND READING:

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians

Philippians 1:20-24.27

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results - I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake. Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing in the market place and said to them: 'You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage.' So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round and he said to them: 'Why have you been standing here idle all day?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. He said to them: 'You go into my vineyard too.' In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff: 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first.' So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it but grumbled at the landowner. 'The men who came last,' they said, 'have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat.' He answered one of them and said: 'My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? So why be envious because I am generous?' Thus the last will be first, and the first, last".

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. 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,
through Christ our Lord.

For by his birth he brought renewal
to humanity's fallen state
and by his suffering cancelled out our sins;
by his rising from the dead
he has opened the way to eternal life,
and by ascending to you, O Father,
he has unlocked the gates of heaven.
And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end 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: **I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord;
I know my sheep and mine know me.**

COMMUNION REFLECTION:

'My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are my ways your ways. As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts,' says the Lord. How small our thoughts can be, and how poor our ways of seeing and judging. We think miserly thoughts, and act in miserly ways. Why? Because we have small minds and small hearts. Lord, open our minds and enlarge our hearts, so that we think more like you, and act more like you. Let us not begrudge your goodness to others, knowing that we too are undeserving of your favours, and stand more in need of your mercy than of your justice.

Prayer after Communion:

Lord, help us with your kindness. Make us strong through the Eucharist. Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. 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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord. .

Thanks be to God.

Lord, help me to remember when things seem hopeless, that you have died and risen, and will triumph through us. I would like to live always with a sense of the joy of the resurrection, but sometimes the pains and sufferings of life seem to over-shadow it. Keep alive a little flame of joy in my heart, and never let the waters of sorrow and pain extinguish it. Forgive me if I waver a little; it's only temporary, for I know that no sorrow, danger or pain can take this inner joy and elation from me, because you, my redeemer live and I live with you!

Christ, as a light, illumine and guide me.
Christ, as a shield overshadow and cover me.
Christ, be under me;
Christ, be over me.
Christ, be beside me, on the left and the right.
Christ, be before me, behind, about me.
Christ, the lowly and meek;
Christ, the all powerful,
Be in the heart of each of whom I speak,
In the mouth of each who speaks to me,
In all who draw near me, or see me, or hear me.

Amen.

I pray to you, creator of things.
Grant that we might reverence
what we take for granted
and learn to honour
what we now spoil
Awaken in us a wonder
for the earth we have inherited
from your providence.
may our care and attention
be partners in the growth of your world,
now and always.
Amen