

Twenty-Sixth Sunday of the Year A



All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

We have the freedom to say 'Yes' or 'No' to God. This means we are responsible for our actions. We sometimes abuse our freedom, but God in his goodness calls us to repentance.

We are called to repentance now.

Lord, you make us know your ways, and teach us your paths.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You show the path to those who stray.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You remember your mercy and the love you have shown from of old.

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, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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 Ezekiel

Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: "You object: 'What the Lord does is unjust'. Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what *you* do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalms 24

Response: Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.

Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:

for you are God my saviour.

R/.

Remember your mercy, Lord,

and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me,

because of your goodness, O Lord.

R/.

The Lord is good and upright.

He shows the path to those who stray,

he guides the humble in the right path;

he teaches his way to the poor.

R/.

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul's letter to the Philippians

Philippians 2:1-11

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people's interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the conditions of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me
he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

The Lord be with you.

Matthew 21:28-32

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people: "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first: 'My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today. He answered: 'I will not go,' but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered: 'Certainly, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?" "The first" they said. Jesus said to them: "I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him".

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 Gifts:

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. 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,
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:

**Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.**

COMMUNION REFLECTION

A father had three sons. One day he said to them: 'Go and work in the vineyard today.' The first said: 'Sure, Dad.' But he didn't go. The second said: 'I won't go.' However, later in the day he changed his mind and went grudgingly. The third said: 'Sure, Dad.' And he went immediately and willingly. Which of the sons is closest to the father? The more we do God's will out of love, the more we'll appreciate his love for us. Lord, save us from the darkness of broken promises, help us to walk in the light of faithfulness.

Prayer after Communion:

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you.

May almighty God bless you,

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

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

And with your spirit.

Amen.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer: God of my prideful attitude and false humility, teach me your ways. Help me to recognize that my repentant "no" is no more virtuous than an unfulfilled "yes." Keep me from acting out of rivalry or conceit so that I might more deeply appreciate the goodness of others. Amen.