Thirty Third Sunday of the Year A



Entrance Antiphon: **The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.** *Jeremiah 29:11.12.14*

God has given us special gifts. If used well, they will enrich our lives and the lives of others. But who can say that we have made full use of the gifts of grace and nature that God has given us? Haven't we often left them unused, or, worse, misused them? So let us confess our sins to God who is generous in forgiveness.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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:
Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. 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 Proverbs (31:10-13.19-20.30-31)
A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 127: 1-5

Response: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.
You will be happy and prosper.
O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;
Your children like shoots of the olive, around your table.
O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion,
in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life.
O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, 'about times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying: 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord,
keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. 'Sir,' he said: 'you entrusted me with five talents: here are five more that I have made.'

His master said to him: 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness.' Next the man with the two talents came forward. 'Sir,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made.' His master said to him: 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things. I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness.' Last came forward the man who had the one talent. 'Sir,' said he, 'I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back.' But his master answered him: 'You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'"

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:
Grant, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer in the sight of your majesty may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness. 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: **Amen, I say to you: Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive, and it shall be given to you, says the Lord.**

REFLECTION: Somebody said that it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied,
That maybe it couldn't, but he would be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with a bit of a grin on his face.
If he worried, he hid it;
And he started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done … and he did it!

Prayer after Communion:
We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery, humbly imploring, O Lord, that what your Son commanded us to do in memory of him may bring us growth in charity. 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 Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer: God, I thank you for the graces you have bestowed upon me, especially the gift of being entrusted with the very heart of God who considers me to be an unfailing prize. I am sorry for those times I have failed to appreciate and use those treasures, the times I have turned my back on grace, turned toward fear, and failed in my faithfulness. Come to me, ever more assertively in my weaknesses, so that I might know your strength and return to you with fuller graciousness.