



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
19th July 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: It's parables again this week, as Jesus uses them to describe the mercy and patience of our God, and the mysterious work and growth of the Kingdom of Heaven. We ask for God's mercy, and praise God this Sunday as we say:

Gloria

A: 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.

Opening prayer

L: 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.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Gospel reading *Matthew 13:24-43*

Jesus put another 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.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Three powerful parables which tell us so much about our God and the mission of Jesus! The wheat and the darnel are about premature judgment: we (the servants) think we can "weed out" the bad in our society, and yet Jesus warns us that our judging may not always be right – we can damage the innocent by judging too hastily. He tells us to leave the judging to God. This can reassure us when we feel that people are "getting away with" evil – it means that no evil remains unpunished, since God sees and knows all: there will be a

reckoning. The other two parables are about the growth and work of the Church: small beginnings and often unnoticed work (like yeast in the dough) bring about great results! A common thread in all three parables is the need to trust God, when our own vision is limited – perhaps we only see the small seed, the weeds in the field, the tiny amount of yeast: we need to trust that God sees (and promises) so much more!

A Thought for our Younger Friends

Try making bread at home if you've never done it! It's fun! But make sure you don't forget yeast – amazing stuff, which transforms your loaf from a flat boring thing into light fluffy bread that's great with butter and jam and peanut butter and all sorts of things! Jesus told a story about yeast in today's Gospel – but of course he's not giving us bread recipes! Jesus wants us to see ourselves like the yeast – when you mix it in, it does amazing things and changes the bread. So we Christians are to be "mixed in" with the world, but our love and kindness will work like yeast, to change the world from a flat boring and sometimes sad place into the light fluffy bread of God's kingdom! Be the yeast today!

Profession of Faith

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.

Intercessions

L: Trusting in the mercy and patience of God, let us pray for the Church and the world.

L: We pray that we may never judge or condemn others, but leave the judging to the Lord of the harvest. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the Church, that like the mustard seed of the Gospel it

may grow to shelter all peoples. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for our parish communities, that we may be the yeast in our society, helping to raise the poor and downtrodden. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: O God, who in the one perfect sacrifice brought to completion varied offerings of the law, accept, we pray, the prayers of your faithful servants, so that what each has offered to the honour of your majesty may benefit the salvation of all. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, Jesus humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal. At the Last Supper he showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

A: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

L: 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.

A: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

L: 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.

A: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

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

A: O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

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.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✕ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!