



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
26th 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: Another week of parables! This week Jesus wants us to ask how important the ways of God's Kingdom are to us, and what we are prepared to do to be "good fish" in the net of history! 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.

O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those

that ever endure. 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 13:44-52*

Jesus said to the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just to throw them into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Have you understood all this?' They said, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Well then, every scribe who becomes a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out from his storeroom things both new and old.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

We are in that part of Saint Matthew's Gospel where he collects lots of the parables that Jesus uses to describe the Kingdom of God: the parable of the dragnet is very similar to last week's – the

wheat and the weeds – in explaining that judgment happens at the end of time, just like a fisherman sorting his catch. In order to avoid being "fish that are no use" we have to embrace the kingdom – to long for it with passion and energy and unswerving dedication. This is where the parables of the treasure and the pearls come in: in our human lives, we will devote great amounts of energy to "the things we really want" – whether that's a holiday, a new iPhone, the latest model car, the new house or extension. Jesus wants us to put the same energy – and more – into longing for his Kingdom: his ways of justice, peace and love in our world as we prepare for our final judgment. Perhaps do a little mental exercise – what percentage of our time do we spend desiring the things of this world compared to the things of the Kingdom of heaven?

A Thought for our Younger Friends

"I'll tell you what I want, what I really, really want" sang the Spice Girls. Have you ever wanted something SO MUCH that you will promise anything? "Yes, mum or dad, I will clean my room EVERY DAY, I will help with the washing up EVERY DAY, I will be in bed by the time you say EVERY DAY!" This is what Jesus is talking about in the Gospel story today – someone wants a treasure SO MUCH that they will sell EVERYTHING they own to get it! Sounds a bit extreme, doesn't it? But we all will do amazing things for something we really want! The treasure in Jesus' story is not really treasure, of course – it stands for something else, for the "Kingdom of God". The "Kingdom" means "the world working the way God wants it to" – people being kind

and helpful, not fighting or being selfish or cruel. This is the real treasure – so we have to ask ourselves “Do we REALLY REALLY want it?” Why not draw a treasure map where the treasure is God’s kingdom and the map shows us the things we have to do to get there!

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: Let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

L: Let us ask for God’s blessings upon all members of the family of the Church, especially in our own parish: that all may find and cherish the treasure of the Kingdom. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray for peace in our world, and an end to all disagreements, conflicts and battles, whether in our own lives, or between nations. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: Let us offer a prayer for anyone who is sick, or sad, or lonely at this time, that they may know the company of Jesus our loving Lord. 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:

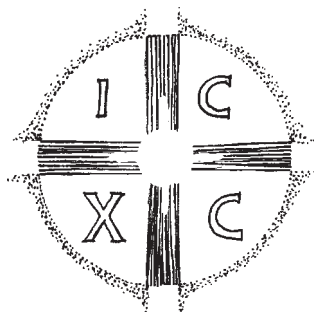
A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: Accept, O Lord, we pray, the prayers which we bring, so that through the powerful working of your grace you may lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: We know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord. 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: Lord, how I love your law!

L: My part, I have resolved, O Lord, is to obey your word. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold.

A: Lord, how I love your law!

L: Let your love be ready to console me by your promise to your servant. Let your love come and I shall live for your law is my delight.

A: Lord, how I love your law!

L: That is why I love your commands more than finest gold, why I rule my life by your precepts, and hate false ways.

A: Lord, how I love your law!

L: Your will is wonderful indeed; therefore I obey it. The unfolding of your word gives light and teaches the simple.

A: Lord, how I love your law!

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

We have received spiritually, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. 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!