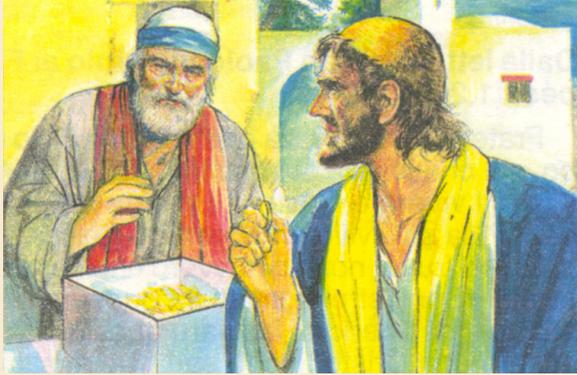


# The Eucharist

20 September 2020 ♦ 25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A



**W**e often look at the Mass as something which we are doing for God. The Churches of the East put the emphasis the other way round. Liturgy is something which God is doing for us. By coming here today we are bringing earth to meet heaven but it is true that heaven comes down to earth first.



*'My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? ... I choose to pay the last-comer as much as I pay you.'*

## FIRST READING *(Isaiah 55:6-9)*

Today's first reading underlines the difference there is between God and humanity, the otherness of God. In doing this it prepares us for the gospel of today. The difference between earth and heaven is a symbol of the difference between God and humanity.

## SECOND READING *(Philippians 1:20-24.27)*

This reading contains a contrast and a point of decision. The contrast is between the writer's personal desire to be united with Christ and on the other hand, the need of his hearers to have him remain among them a little longer. He goes beyond his own desire and chooses the good of others.

## GOSPEL *(Matthew 20:1-16)*

Today's parable is that of the generous landowner who pays all his workers an equal wage, regardless of what time each one began to work. Jesus used parables because they contain an element which causes the hearers to sit up, maybe because they hear something which provokes them. In this case it is the seeming unfairness of the employer in paying the same amount to those who worked for a short while and those who bore the heat of the midday sun. The implication of this is left sufficiently vague as to invite further thought.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### 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.**

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

The Lord be with you.

Amen.

And with your spirit.

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves  
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**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,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**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.**

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

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

Amen.

Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.

### Gloria

**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.**

**Collect**

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.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

*(Is 55:6-9)*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.  
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 the earth  
as my ways are above your ways,  
my thoughts above your thoughts.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*(Ps 144:2-3.8-9.17-18)*

**℟ The Lord is close to all who call him.**

1. 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. **℟**
2. 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. **℟**
3. 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. **℟**

**SECOND READING**

*(Phil 1:20-24.27)*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Philippians.  
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.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(Lk 19:38; 2:14)*

**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**

*(Mt 20:1-16)*



The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O 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 idle 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? 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.**

**Profession of Faith**

*(Nicene Creed)*

**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,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, all bow.*

**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.

Or

### Profession of Faith *(Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

*At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary,  
all bow.*

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.

*The priest introduces the* Prayer of the Faithful.

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Offering the bread, the priest says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:

fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Offering the chalice, the priest says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:

fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, brethren (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 Offerings

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.**

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

*(Preface Proper)*

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,

Father most holy,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
your Word through whom you made all things,  
whom you sent as our Saviour and Redeemer,  
incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people,  
he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion,  
so as to break the bonds of death and manifest  
the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints  
we declare your glory,  
as with one voice 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.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us  
the Body and ☩ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice  
and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

**Save us, Saviour of the world,  
for by your Cross and Resurrection  
you have set us free.**

Therefore, as we celebrate  
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,

the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation, giving thanks that you have held us worthy to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ, we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. Remember, Lord, your Church, spread throughout the world, and bring her to the fullness of charity, together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, and all who have died in your mercy: welcome them into the light of your face. Have mercy on us all, we pray, that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with the blessed Apostles, and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages, we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life, and may praise and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ. Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

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

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps 118:4-5)*

**You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;  
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.**

**Prayer after Communion**

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.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

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 in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Personal Prayer**

I adore you, incarnate Word,  
only begotten Son and splendour of the Father.  
I thank you, sole Master and truth,  
for your supreme condescension in coming to me,  
ignorant and sinful as I am.

With Mary I offer you to the Father:  
Through you, with you, in you,  
may there be eternal praise,  
thanksgiving and supplication for peace to men.

Enlighten my mind;  
make me a willing disciple of the Church;  
grant that I may live in faith;  
give me an understanding of the scriptures.  
Make me your ardent apostle.  
Let the light of your gospel, O Divine Master,  
shine to the farthest bounds of the world. Amen.