

# The Eucharist

27 September 2020 ♦ 26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A



**T**oday's Liturgy of the Word asks us to choose between what we know to be right and what is wrong. The readings contain a number of contrasts: justice and injustice, integrity and sin, honesty and dishonesty, life and death, what is said versus what is actually done. The effect is to urge us to evaluate the differences and to see the beauty of choosing life.



*Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.'*

## FIRST READING *(Ezekiel 18:25-28)*

Today's first reading comes from a crucial point in the moral life of Israel. Up to this the deeds of a person, whether good or bad, were seen to pass on to the fourth or fifth generation so that guilt or innocence was inherited. Ezekiel's timely intervention is intended to break this mould. Each person is responsible for what they do.

## SECOND READING *(Philippians 2:1-11)*

As is so often the case when we read the Bible, today's excerpt puts a contrast before us. First there is divinity, equality with God. Then on the other hand, there is slavery and identity with humanity. Christ decisively opted for the second choice. As a result another contrast emerges, namely, death and life, the life to which God raised him.

## GOSPEL *(Matthew 21:28-32)*

The parable in today's gospel calls for decision. The two sons are symbols for two approaches to life. But the choice is also within each son. True freedom begins when we get a clear understanding of the real situation in which we find ourselves, when we accept that our life and choices are limited.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon *(Dan 3:31.29.30.43.42)*

**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.**

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

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**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.

**Amen.**

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

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 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.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

(Ez 18:25-28)

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

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

(Ps 24:4-9)

**R** Remember your mercy, Lord.

1. 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**
2. Remember your mercy, Lord,  
and the love you have shown from of old.  
Do not remember the sins of my youth.  
In your love remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R**
3. 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

(Phil 2:1-11)

(For Shorter Form, read between ♦ ♦).

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

♦ 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 condition 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.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Jn 14:23)

**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

(Mt 21:28-32)



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew.

**Glorify to you, O 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.**

### 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

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.

### EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

*(Preface I of the Sundays in Ordinary Time)*

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 through his Paschal Mystery,  
he accomplished the marvellous deed,  
by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death,  
summoning us to the glory of being now called  
a chosen race, a royal priesthood,  
a holy nation, a people for your own possession,  
to proclaim everywhere your mighty works,  
for you have called us out of darkness  
into your own wonderful light.

And so, with Angels and Archangels,  
with Thrones and Dominions,  
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,  
we sing the hymn of your glory,  
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.**

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  $\text{✠}$  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.

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,  
and profess your Resurrection  
until you come again.**

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** *(Cf. Ps 118:49-50)*

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

### 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.**

## 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 and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Personal Prayer

Jesus, we adore you, living in the Church, your Mystical  
Body, and our sole ark of salvation.

We thank you for having given us this infallible and  
indefectible Mother, in whom you continue to be for us  
the Way, the Truth and the Life.

We ask of you that all the non-Christians may come to  
her inextinguishable light, the erring return to her, and  
all humankind be united in faith, in common hope,  
in charity.

Exalt the Church, assist the Pope, sanctify the priests  
and the souls consecrated to you. Lord Jesus, our wish  
is yours: that there be one fold under one Shepherd.  
Amen.