

The Christian life is a calling from God to be companions of Jesus and work for the spread of his love and justice. All of us are asked to do this in our own lives.



In the Gospel today John identifies Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world". This is a very different sort of leader than people were expecting. Not a great king but a sacrificial lamb. The one who would put his people before everything even his own life. He is baptised by John with water as a sign of his humanity. John testifies to Jesus' power to baptise with the Holy Spirit as a sign of his divinity. True God and True Man. The servant of both.

The Greek word for sin used in the New Testament is hamartia. It is a technical term from archery meaning to miss the mark. In this sense it can cover both wilful wrongdoing and the occasional shortcomings we are all guilty of. The failure to love each other as we should, to accord every life the dignity and respect it deserves.

As always, for Christians following the path of Jesus, the path of hope and redemption, has its challenges. Are we "lambs of God" who will put others first? Do we strive to see the dignity in other people? To raise them up? Do we welcome the displaced and offer comfort to the marginalised?

This week maybe think about the times we fell short or were wide of the mark. Take the time to forgive someone who hurt us and to seek forgiveness from someone we have hurt.



For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, All bow for following three lines: 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS
Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that we may participate worthily in these mysteries, for whenever the memorial of this sacrifice is celebrated the work of our redemption is accomplished. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION
The mystery of faith.
We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON
We have come to know and to believe in the love that God has for us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Pour on us, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, and in your kindness make those you have nourished by this one heavenly Bread one in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON
All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!

PENITENTIAL ACT
Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us...Amen.

THE 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.



OPENING PRAYER
Almighty ever-living God, who govern all things, both in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the pleading of your people and bestow your peace on our times. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 49: 3. 5-6
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
The Lord said to me, 'You are my servant, Israel, in whom I shall be glorified'; I was honoured in the eyes of the Lord, my God was my strength.

And now the Lord has spoken, he who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, to gather Israel to him:

'It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel;

I will make you the light of the nations so that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 39: 2.4 7-10
R. Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord

and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry. He put a new song into my mouth, praise of our God. **[R]**

2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings, but an open ear. You do not ask for holocaust and victim. Instead, here am I. **[R]**

3. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law in the depth of my heart. **[R]**

4. Your justice I have proclaimed in the great assembly. My lips I have not sealed; you know it, O Lord. **[R]**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:1-3
A reading from the 1st letter of St. Paul's to the Corinthians
I, Paul, appointed by God to be an apostle, together with brother Sosthenes, send greetings to the church of God in Corinth, to the holy people of Jesus Christ, who are called to take their place among all the saints everywhere who pray to our Lord Jesus Christ; for he is their Lord no less than ours. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.
The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:29-34
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.
Seeing Jesus coming towards him, John said, 'Look, there is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. This is the one I spoke of when I said: A man is coming after me who ranks before me because he existed before me. I did not know him myself, and yet it was to reveal him to Israel that I came baptising with water.' John also declared, 'I saw the Spirit coming down on him from heaven like a dove and resting on him. I did not know him myself, but he who sent me to baptise with water had said to me, "The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and rest is the one who is going to baptise with the Holy Spirit." Yes, I have seen and I am the witness that he is the Chosen One of God.'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

