

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Save us, O Lord our God! And gather us from the nations, to give thanks to your holy name, and make it our glory to praise you.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you have shown us the way to the Father:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you have given us the consolation of the truth: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd, leading us into everlasting life:

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.

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

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may honour you with all our mind, and love everyone in truth of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ,

LITURGY OF THE WORD**FIRST READING** Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12 - 13

A reading from the prophet Zephaniah

Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.



The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 145:7 - 10

R. How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven or Alleluia!

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **(R)**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down, the Lord, who protects the stranger and upholds the widow and orphan. **(R)**

3. It is the Lord who loves the just but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **(R)**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:26 - 31

A reading from the 1st letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 5: 1 -12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

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



focus on sunday

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 29th January 2023

The gospel today is the charter of a Christian (The Beatitudes): Jesus' sermon on the mount. It is an invitation to live like him, and a challenge to serve him in our neighbour.



The gospel today is often called the mission statement of the Church, like any organisation writes its mission statement. The mission statement lets us know what is essential to the Church: each of them is worth our consideration and worth our commitment. However, they do not come out of fresh air. The mission statement is related to the vision of the Church is – a vision based on the life and ministry of Jesus.

He himself lived the beatitudes before and as he preached them: a man who was humble, gentle, merciful in his relationships with everyone; who could mourn others and for his world; who had a commitment to justice and right; lived his message as he taught it and was himself persecuted to the end. Without our relationship with Jesus, the beatitudes would be just a set of regulations.

Pope Francis expands them, saying: "Blessed are those Christian communities who live this authentic gospel simplicity! Poor in spirit means they are rich in God. Blessed are the shepherds who do not ride the logic of worldly success, but follow the law of love: welcoming, listening, serving. Blessed is the Church who does not entrust herself to the criteria of functionalism and organizational efficiency, nor worries about her image, (quoting St. Thérèse), "Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude".

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.

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,

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**

O Lord, we bring to your altar these offerings of our service: be pleased to receive them, we pray, and transform them into the Sacrament of our redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase. Through Christ our Lord.