

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

## PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.** May almighty God have mercy on us.....

## 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

Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING Wisdom 12: 13, 16 - 19

**A reading from the book of Wisdom**

There is no god, other than you, who cares for everything, to whom you might have to prove that you never judged unjustly.

Your justice has its source in strength, your sovereignty over all makes you lenient to all.

You show your strength when your sovereign power is questioned and you expose the insolence of those who know it; but, disposing of such strength, you are mild in judgement, you govern us with great lenience, for you have only to will, and your power is there.

By acting thus you have taught a lesson to your people how the virtuous man must be kindly to his fellow men, and you have given your sons the good hope that after sin you will grant repentance.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 85:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

**R. O Lord, you are good and forgiving.**

1. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of love to all who call. Give heed, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my voice. **[R]**

2. All the nations shall come to adore you and glorify your name, O Lord: for you are great and do marvellous deeds, you who alone are God. **[R]**

3. But you, God of mercy and compassion, slow to anger, O Lord, abounding in love and truth, turn and take pity on me. **[R]**

## SECOND READING Romans 8: 26-27

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans**

The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself expresses our plea in a way that could never be put into words, and God who knows everything in our hearts knows perfectly well what he means, and that the pleas of the saints expressed by the Spirit are according to the mind of God.

**The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

## GOSPEL Matthew 13: 24 - 43 (\*shorter form 13: 24 -30)

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.**

\*Jesus put a parable before the crowds, 'The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everybody was asleep his enemy came, sowed darnel all among the wheat, and made off. When the new wheat sprouted and ripened, the darnel appeared as well. The owner's servants went to him and said, "Sir, was it not good seed that you sowed in your field? If so, where does the darnel come from?" "Some enemy has done this" he answered. And the servants said, "Do you want us to go and weed it out?" But he said, "No, because when you weed out the darnel you might pull up the wheat with it. Let them both grow till the harvest; and at harvest time I shall say to the reapers: First collect the darnel and tie it in bundles to be burnt, then gather the wheat into my barn." \* \* \*

He put another parable before them, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches."

He told them another parable, "The kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through."

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables; indeed he would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfill the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 23rd July 2023

*(World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly)*

God knows the good and evil in a person's heart and accepts both in us. He knows our struggles over evil and he both heals and forgives the wrong-doing in our lives.

Then, leaving the crowds, he went to the house; and his disciples came to him and said, 'Explain the parable about the darnel in the field to us.' He said in reply, 'The sower of the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world; the good seed is the subjects of the kingdom; the darnel, the subjects of the evil one; the enemy who sowed them, the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; the reapers are the angels. Well then, just as the darnel is gathered up and burnt in the fire, so it will be at the end of time. The Son of Man will send his angels and they will gather out of his kingdom all things that provoke offences and all who do evil, and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth. Then the virtuous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Listen, anyone who has ears!'

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

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**All bow for following two lines:**

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.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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



"We must treasure the spiritual and human wealth that has been handed down from generation to generation" – Pope Francis

Today's Gospel is very apt for the "World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly". We celebrate the people who were the sowers of the seed of our faith. Their love and faith like the mustard tree provides shelter and comfort for generations of their families. We have all run for a hug from granny or grandad when all the world, even our parents, seemed set against us?

The gospel emphasis that our love should be boundless. We must love each other even when we stray. The farmer would not weed out the bad for fear of hurting the good.

We can read the parable both as advice about the need to accept that bad things can happen, to have patience and let God's plan play out and also as advice that the Christian heart must be constantly forgiving and supportive. Acceptance, born of love experience and forgiveness is a consistent trait seen in our grandparents and older people.

So, this week maybe take some time to visit your grandparents or an older person, light a candle for them, send a card or text to let them know you are thinking of them.

"I thank you for the faith that was given to me. The faith I now preserve and that I will pass on".