

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;
and look on the face of your anointed one; one day
within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

PENITENTIAL ACT

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,
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..... Amen.

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

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

O God, who have prepared for those who love you
good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we
pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you
in all things and above all things, we may attain your
promises, which surpass every human desire.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Isaiah 56: 1-6 - 7*

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord: Have a care for justice, act with
integrity, for soon my salvation will come and my
integrity be manifest.

Foreigners who have attached themselves to the
Lord to serve him and to love his name and be his
servants - all who observe the sabbath, not profaning
it, and cling to my covenant - these I will bring to my
holy mountain. I will make them joyful in my house of

prayer. Their holocausts and their sacrifices will be
accepted on my altar, for my house will be called a
house of prayer for all the peoples.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *Ps. 66:2-3, 5-6, 8*

**R. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.**

1. O God, be gracious and bless us
and let your face shed its light upon us.
So will your ways be known upon earth
and all nations learn your saving help. [R]
2. Let the nations be glad and exult
for you rule the world with justice.
With fairness you rule the peoples,
you guide the nations on earth. [R]
3. Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.
May God still give us his blessing
till the ends of the earth revere him. [R]

SECOND READING *Romans 11:13 - 15. 29 - 32*

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Let me tell you pagans this: I have been sent to the
pagans as their apostle, and I am proud of being
sent, but the purpose of it is to make my own people
envious of you, and in this way save some of them.
Since their rejection meant the reconciliation of the
world, do you know what their admission will mean?
Nothing less than a resurrection from the dead! God
never takes back his gifts or revokes his choice.

Just as you changed from being disobedient to God,
and now enjoy mercy because of their disobedience,
so those who are disobedient now - and only because
of the mercy shown to you - will also enjoy mercy
eventually. God has imprisoned all men in their own
disobedience only to show mercy to all mankind

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus proclaimed the Good
News of the kingdom, and cured all kinds of
sickness among the people. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL *Matthew 15:21-28*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus left Gennesaret and withdrew to the region of
Tyre and Sidon. Then out came a Canaanite woman
from that district and started shouting, 'Sir, Son of
David, take pity on me. My daughter is tormented
by a devil.' But he answered her not a word. And
his disciples went and pleaded with him. 'Give her
what she wants,' they said 'because she is shouting
after us.' He said in reply, 'I was sent only to the lost
sheep of the House of Israel.' But the woman had
come up and was kneeling at his feet. 'Lord,' she
said 'help me.' He replied, 'It is not fair to take the
children's food and throw it to the house-dogs.' She
retorted, 'Ah yes, sir; but even house-dogs can eat
the scraps that fall from their master's table.' Then
Jesus answered her, 'Woman, you have great faith.



focus on sunday

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

20th August 2023

The gift of Jesus in the Eucharist is a promise of his company
forever in heaven. We share in his life now, and after our death
in a new and different way. This is the joy and certainty of our faith.



...you have great faith

Let your wish be granted.' And from that
moment her daughter was well again.

**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.
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

Pray brothers and sisters,

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith.

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



"As the child grew to maturity, he was filled with
wisdom." (Luke 2 v 40). Jesus was fully human,
and so, like every human being, he had to grow
in wisdom, learning from his experiences as he

went along. In today's gospel, Jesus appears to be very rude
to the Canaanite woman. It seems to show Jesus in a bad light.
So why did Matthew include this story in his Gospel and not just
leave it out? Perhaps because this incident was so significant
in understanding the mission of Jesus. Jesus, like every Jew,
had been brought up to believe that the Messiah would be
sent, exclusively, to the people of Israel. The Jews despised
the Canaanites, relations between them were very hostile, they
would not even speak to one another. This encounter with
the Canaanite woman was a "watershed moment" for Jesus,
as it dawned on him that his mission, as Messiah, was not
exclusively to those of the Jewish faith. He understood now
that his mission was universal. Her faith deserved a response
from him. So too the centurion, a pagan, whose servant Jesus
healed, saying "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such
faith." (Luke 7 v 1-10). Before we become a Jew or a Christian
or a Muslim or atheist, we are a member of God's family and
God will love us and care for us. Excluding anyone from our
love and care is not the way of Jesus.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ