

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you give yourself to heal us and bring us strength:

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

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33: 7 - 9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 94:1-2, 6-9

**R. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;

hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

[R]

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

[R]

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

[R]

SECOND READING Romans 13: 8 - 10

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

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord,
consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Matthew 18: 15 - 20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

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.**



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 10th September 2023

The gospel message is one of joy, rooted in the love and care of Christ for everyone. Today Jesus spells out our Christian family duty - to have a responsibility towards each other: we cannot stand by idly and watch others harm themselves.



**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.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty, and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. 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.**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
Whoever follows me will not
walk in darkness, but will have the
light of life.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



Today's Gospel was written with the Christian community in mind. Matthew understood that where people live together, there will always be failures in love and misunderstandings. Sometimes

people will hurt others, either consciously or unknowingly. So there is a need in every community for a process by which these hurts can be resolved. Here Matthew describes the process of reconciliation in the community with which he was familiar. It seeks to restore relationships which have been broken. It has all the elements of "restorative justice," bringing people together to resolve their difficulties rather than rejecting them and allowing those difficulties fester. It reminds me of a young, formerly homeless, man who is now a single father with two children. He has a great relationship with them. He sits them down and discusses everything with them, explaining why he sometimes has to say no. One day his five year old son saw two neighbours on the street, arguing and shouting at each other and shoving each other. He went over and stood between them and said, "You can't do this, you must sit down and discuss it." Jesus came to restore the broken relationships that exist between us and God. He doesn't reject us, or punish us for our sinfulness; no, he restores our relationship with him by calling us back to him again and again. This is the model for our relationships with each other, and should be the model for our criminal justice system.

Fr. Peter McVerry SJ