

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? When those who do evil draw near, they stumble and fall.

PENITENTIAL ACT

You raise the dead to life in the Spirit:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
You bring pardon and peace to the sinner:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
You bring light to those in darkness:
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, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it. Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING *Genesis 3:9 - 15*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. 'Where are you?' he asked. 'I heard the sound of you in the garden;' he replied 'I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid.' 'Who told you that you were naked?' he asked. 'Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?' The man replied, 'It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it.' Then the Lord God asked the woman, 'What is this you have done?' The woman replied, 'The serpent tempted me and I ate.'

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, 'Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts. You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life. I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM *P.S. 129*

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading. **[R]**
2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you. **[R]**
3. My soul is waiting for the Lord, I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak. **[R]**
4. Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity. **[R]**



SECOND READING *2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1*

A reading from St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians
As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture - I believed, and therefore I spoke - we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

GOSPEL *Mark 3: 20 - 35*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, 'Beelzebul is in him,' and, 'It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out.' So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And



Jesus's life brings out the struggle between good and evil. He is the one who by his death and resurrection has conquered evil.



In today's Gospel, Jesus appears to be quite rude, dismissive of his mother and relatives. St. Mark's Gospel was written in order to reveal Jesus as the Son of God. Would St. Mark not have been better to

omit this story altogether, as it seems to portray the Son of God in a not very good light? But perhaps Mark includes this story because it is so important. Many of the early Christians found themselves in conflict with their family and their Jewish community, who wanted nothing to do with them because they had abandoned the faith of their fathers and converted to Christianity. Some were rejected by their friends and sacked from their employment. They were tempted to give up their Christian beliefs and return to the comfort of their Jewish way of life. In those parts of the world where Christians are a persecuted minority, this sense of exclusion and hostility is still a reality of life for them. But this story reminds them, and us, that, as Christians, our family goes beyond the nuclear family, or the tribe, or country, to which we belong, and extends to the whole human race. Perhaps Jesus wanted to encourage them to continue as Christians by reminding them, and us, that we now have a new family, a global community, to which we belong. Christians exclude no-one from their love, even if we ourselves are sometimes excluded by others.

Fr. Peter McVerry

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.**