

# The Eucharist

5 November 2023 ♦ 31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A (Prisoners' Sunday)



**W**e are approaching the end of this liturgical year and our thoughts turn naturally to the end of all things. This theme will emerge more clearly over the course of the next few weeks. The end of the world is shrouded in as much uncertainty as its beginning. What is certain is that the God of its beginning is the God of its end, too.



*'Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted.'*

## FIRST READING *(Malachi 1:14–2:2-8-10)*

Today's first reading contains a number of opposites: God's name respected and God's name not being given its due glory; curse and blessing; the nations and Israel; many explicit faults and many implied right ways of behaving. The mentality behind these is the call for decisive action, in this case, to keep the covenant of our ancestors.

## SECOND READING *(1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13)*

Today's second reading is Paul at his most optimistic. He is rejoicing at the eagerness at which his hearers accepted the good news which was preached to them. The joy of believers is an eloquent witness to the power of God.

## GOSPEL *(Matthew 23:1-12)*

Like today's first reading this gospel too contains a number of polar opposites: the teaching of the scribes and Pharisees and their actions; practice and preaching; laying heavy burdens on others and not helping to remove them; the greatest and the servant; the humbled and the exalted. Again a call to decisive action.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Cf. Ps 37:22-23)*

**Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me!**

**Make haste and come to my help,  
O Lord, my strong salvation!**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

**Amen.**

**And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

Brethren (brothers and sisters),  
let us acknowledge our sins,  
and so prepare ourselves  
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*A brief pause for silence follows.*

**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,**

*And, striking their breast, they say:*

**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,  
forgive us our sins,  
and bring us to everlasting life.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

**Amen.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

**Christ, have mercy.**

**Lord, have mercy.**

### 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.**

**Collect**

Almighty and merciful God,  
by whose gift your faithful offer you  
right and praiseworthy service,  
grant, we pray,  
that we may hasten without stumbling  
to receive the things you have promised.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity  
of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**THE LITURGY OF THE WORD**

**FIRST READING**

*(Mal 1:14-2:2.8-10)*

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

I am a great king, says the Lord of hosts, and my name is feared throughout the nations. And now, priests, this warning is for you. If you do not listen, if you do not find it in your heart to glorify my name, says the Lord of hosts, I will send the curse on you and curse your very blessing. You have strayed from the way; you have caused many to stumble by your teaching. You have destroyed the covenant of Levi, says the Lord of hosts. And so I in my turn have made you contemptible and vile in the eyes of the whole people in repayment for the way you have not kept to my paths but have shown partiality in your administration.

Have we not all one Father? Did not one God create us? Why, then, do we break faith with one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors?

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*(Ps 130)*

**℟ Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.**

1. O Lord, my heart is not proud  
nor haughty my eyes.  
I have not gone after things too great  
nor marvels beyond me. **℟**
2. Truly I have set my soul  
in silence and peace.  
A weaned child on its mother's breast,  
even so is my soul. **℟**
3. O Israel, hope in the Lord  
both now and for ever. **℟**

**SECOND READING**

*(1 Thess 2:7-9.13)*

A reading from the first letter of St Paul  
to the Thessalonians.

Like a mother feeding and looking after her own child-  
ren, we felt so devoted and protective towards you,

and had come to love you so much, that we were  
eager to hand over to you not only the Good News  
but our whole lives as well. Let me remind you,  
brothers, how hard we used to work, slaving night and  
day so as not to be a burden on any one of you while we  
were proclaiming God's Good News to you.

Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is  
that as soon as you heard the message that we brought  
you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really  
is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it  
is still a living power among you who believe it.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(1 Sam 3:9; Jn 6:68)*

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.**

**Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL**

*(Mt 23:1-12)*



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Addressing the people and his disciples Jesus said, 'The  
scribes and the Pharisees occupy the chair of Moses.  
You must therefore do what they tell you and listen to  
what they say; but do not be guided by what they do:  
since they do not practise what they preach. They tie up  
heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but  
will they lift a finger to move them? Not they! Everything  
they do is done to attract attention, like wearing broader  
phylacteries and longer tassels, like wanting to take the  
place of honour at banquets and the front seats in the  
synagogues, being greeted obsequiously in the market  
squares and having people call them Rabbi.

'You, however, must not allow yourselves to be called  
Rabbi, since you have only one Master, and you are all  
brothers. You must call no one on earth your father, since  
you have only one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor must  
you allow yourselves to be called teachers, for you have  
only one Teacher, the Christ. The greatest among you  
must be your servant. Anyone who exalts himself will  
be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be  
exalted.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Profession of Faith**

*(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,**

*At the words that follow, up to and including  
and became man, all bow.*

**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.**

*The priest introduces the Prayer of the Faithful.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*Offering the bread, the priest says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the bread we offer you:

fruit of the earth and work of human hands,  
it will become for us the bread of life.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

*Offering the chalice, the priest says:*

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,  
for through your goodness we have received  
the wine we offer you:

fruit of the vine and work of human hands,  
it will become our spiritual drink.

**Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),  
that my sacrifice and yours  
may be acceptable to God,  
the almighty Father.

**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.**

### Prayer over the Offerings

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,  
become for you a pure oblation,  
and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### Eucharistic Prayer II

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*(Preface Proper)*

**And with your spirit.**

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,

Father most holy,  
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,  
your Word through whom you made all things,  
whom you sent as our Saviour and Redeemer,  
incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people,  
he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion,  
so as to break the bonds of death and manifest  
the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints  
we declare your glory,  
as with one voice we acclaim:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,  
the fount of all holiness.

Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,  
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,  
so that they may become for us  
the Body and  $\times$  Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed  
and entered willingly into his Passion,  
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,  
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,  
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,  
he took the chalice  
and, once more giving thanks,  
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,  
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,  
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,  
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY  
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.  
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

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

Therefore, as we celebrate  
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,  
we offer you, Lord,  
the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,  
giving thanks that you have held us worthy  
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray  
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.  
Remember, Lord, your Church,  
spread throughout the world,

and bring her to the fullness of charity,  
together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop  
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters  
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,  
and all who have died in your mercy:  
welcome them into the light of your face.  
Have mercy on us all, we pray,  
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,  
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,  
with the blessed Apostles,  
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout  
the ages,

we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,  
and may praise and glorify you  
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
O God, almighty Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE COMMUNION RITE

At the Saviour's command  
and formed by divine teaching,  
we dare to say:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,  
we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
who said to your Apostles:  
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,  
look not on our sins,  
but on the faith of your Church,  
and graciously grant her peace and unity  
in accordance with your will.  
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And with your spirit.**

*The priest may invite the people to exchange a sign of peace  
and Christian fellowship. As the priest breaks the consecrated  
Host the following is sung or said:*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.**

*Showing the Host to the people, the priest says:*

Behold the Lamb of God,  
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.  
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy  
that you should enter under my roof,  
but only say the word  
and my soul shall be healed.**

**Communion Antiphon**

*(Ps 15:11)*

**You will show me the path of life,  
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

**Prayer after Communion**

May the working of your power, O Lord,  
increase in us, we pray,  
so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments,  
we may be prepared by your gift  
for receiving what they promise.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

May almighty God bless you,  
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Personal Prayer**

God of the living, give us the insight to recognise  
where you are challenging us to put into practice  
what we preach after the example of your dear Son  
who loved us not only in his words but in his deeds.

Empower us to take on the attitude of joy which  
comes from the certainty that all you have created is  
in your hands.

May this joy be ever deeper than the ups and downs  
of our daily life so that amid the ever-changing  
fortunes of our life here we may remain grounded in  
the sure knowledge of your unchanging love for us.  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.