

# The Eucharist

19 November 2023 ♦ 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A (World Day of the Poor)



**T**oday the liturgy leads us to consider the dignity of work and the use of human ingenuity and intelligence. God Himself is presented in Scripture as a worker and so is Jesus, His Son. To work as God intended is to develop creation and respect it, not attack and destroy it. Work enables people to experience their competence and dignity. To be called away from our work in this world without warning is not a reason to give up on effort but a strong basis for hope: the Day of the Lord must be a day of hope because he is merciful.



*“To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability.”*

## FIRST READING *(Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)*

This reading presents in lively terms the human joy of skill, competence and intelligence. The world is a wonderful place to be developed and loved and respected. The wisdom praised here is practical know-how rather than the pale theorising of the ivory tower. What applies to the perfect wife applies to all.

## SECOND READING *(1 Thessalonians 5:1-6)*

There is no point in wasting one's time in speculation about the end of the world. It will be entirely the work of God and no analysis of earthly conditions can indicate its approach. So one should attend to the quality of one's life here and let the end look after itself.

## GOSPEL *(Matthew 25:14-30)*

As he often does, Jesus makes a contrast here between the canny and lively servants who are confident enough to take risks and intelligent enough to succeed and the dull one paralysed by fear and unable to take even a small risk. In trying to keep a little safe he loses it and gets the sack, poor fellow. Those who risk a life of faith in Jesus will get a great reward.

## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

*(Jer 29:11.12.14)*

**The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction.**

**You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.**

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

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**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.

**Amen.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, 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

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God,  
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,  
for it is full and lasting happiness  
to serve with constancy  
the author of all that is good.  
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

(Prov 31:10-13.19-20.30-31)

A reading from the book of Proverbs.  
A perfect wife – who can find her?  
She is far beyond the price of pearls.  
Her husband's heart has confidence in her,  
from her he will derive no little profit.  
Advantage and not hurt she brings him  
all the days of her life.  
She is always busy with wool and with flax,  
she does her work with eager hands.  
She sets her hands to the distaff,  
her fingers grasp the spindle.  
She holds out her hand to the poor,  
she opens her arms to the needy.  
Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;  
the woman who is wise is the one to praise.  
Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,  
and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

(Ps 127:1-5)

**R O blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

1. O blessed are those who fear the Lord  
and walk in his ways!  
By the labour of your hands you shall eat.  
You will be happy and prosper. **R**
2. Your wife like a fruitful vine  
in the heart of your house;  
your children like shoots of the olive,  
around your table. **R**
3. Indeed thus shall be blessed  
the man who fears the Lord.  
May the Lord bless you from Zion  
in a happy Jerusalem  
all the days of your life. **R**

### SECOND READING

(1 Thess 5:1-6)

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

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you,  
brothers, about 'times and seasons,' since you know very  
well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief  
in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet  
and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as  
suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman;  
and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for  
that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons  
of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the  
night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping,  
as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Apoc 2:10)

**Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Even if you have to die, says the Lord,  
keep faithful, and I will give you  
the crown of life.**

**Alleluia!**

### GOSPEL

(Mt 25:14-30)

(For Shorter Form, read between ♦ ♦).



The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel  
according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

♦ Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom  
of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned  
his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one  
he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each  
in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.♦

The man who had received the five talents promptly went  
and traded with them and made five more. The man who  
had received two made two more in the same way. But  
the man who had received one went off and dug a hole  
in the ground and hid his master's money.

♦ Now a long time after, the master of those servants  
came back and went through his accounts with them.  
The man who had received the five talents came forward  
bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with  
five talents; here are five more that I have made." ♦

His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful  
servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small  
things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your  
master's happiness." Next the man with the two talents  
came forward. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with two  
talents; here are two more that I have made." His master  
said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you  
have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will  
trust you with greater; come and join in your master's  
happiness." Last came forward the man who had the  
one talent. "Sir," said he, "I had heard you were a hard  
man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering  
where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I  
went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is;  
it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered

him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

✦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**

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**

Grant, O Lord, we pray,  
that what we offer in the sight of your majesty  
may obtain for us the grace of being devoted to you  
and gain us the prize of everlasting happiness.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer I**

*(Preface IV of the Sundays in Ordinary Time)*

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right and just.**

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,  
always and everywhere to give you thanks,  
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,  
through Christ our Lord.

For by his birth he brought renewal  
to humanity's fallen state,  
and by his suffering, cancelled out our sins;  
by his rising from the dead  
he has opened the way to eternal life,  
and by ascending to you, O Father,  
he has unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,  
we sing the hymn of your praise,  
as without end 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 ✠ 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 72:28)*

**To be near God is my happiness,  
to place my hope in God the Lord.**

**Prayer after Communion**

We have partaken of the gifts of this sacred mystery,  
humbly imploring, O Lord,  
that what your Son commanded us to do  
in memory of him  
may bring us growth in charity.  
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.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Personal Prayer**

Gracious God, from the first day of creation you have ceaselessly entrusted countless gifts to your people and asked them to use their talents according to their abilities. Guide us into a responsible use of these gifts. Enable us to act boldly and wisely and not out of fear. May our hands be full of good deeds on the day of judgement, that we may be counted among your good and faithful servants who share your joy. Amen