

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

PENITENTIAL ACT

You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
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

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....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Wisdom 11:22 - 12:2

A reading from the book of Wisdom

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like a grain of dust that tips the scales, like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground. Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things and overlook men's sins so that they can repent. Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence, for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it. And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist, how be conserved if not called forth by you?

You spare all things because all things are yours, Lord, lover of life, you whose imperishable spirit is in all. Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend, you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned, so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 144:1-2.8-11.13-14

R. I will bless your name for ever, O God my King.

1. I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever.

[R]



2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. [R]
3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. [R]
4. The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. [R]

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 1:11 - 2:2

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

We pray continually that our God will make you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil all your desires for goodness and complete all that you have been doing through faith; because in this way the name of our Lord Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall all be gathered round him: please do not get excited too soon or alarmed by any prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to come from us, implying that the Day of the Lord has already arrived.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 19: 1- 10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd; so he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening: 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house,' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'

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.



focus on sunday

God loves everything he creates; nothing he makes is evil. Similarly he loves and befriends each of his people and the gospel story is of Jesus' friendship with a man whom everyone else looked down on.



'...for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.'



Today's gospel gives a good insight into acceptance, repentance, and conversion. Zacchaeus used his position to overcharge tax and pocket the proceeds from the Romans. Everyone knew it was happening but,

as in many cases of greed, nobody could do anything! By the grace he received from Jesus; he knew he could change. So, he confessed his wrongdoing, in public. He went further by saying he would make amends by paying back what he defrauded – what we would call restitution. He followed this with a sign that he had changed his mind and heart – he would give away property to the poor.

We sometimes wait for an apology and restitution in cases where people, especially the poor, have been affected by greed and often criminal use of financial resources. We await a new way of proceeding with our banks and other financial institutions. Too often, in the modern world, long legal cases are necessary before ordinary people get what is due to them. In our everyday lives, an apology can often be followed by a gift or some sign, more than words, of sorrow.

When Zacchaeus "saw what kind of man Jesus was" he also saw clearly what kind of man he was himself. Jesus granted him the grace to see the need for change and the strength and courage to repent and to change. The life of Jesus appeals to the best in us as he appealed to the best in Zacchaeus, both to confess our wrongdoing and make it up to those we have wronged.

Lord, forgive us and help us forgive, or pray, for those who have harmed us.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

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.

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

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.