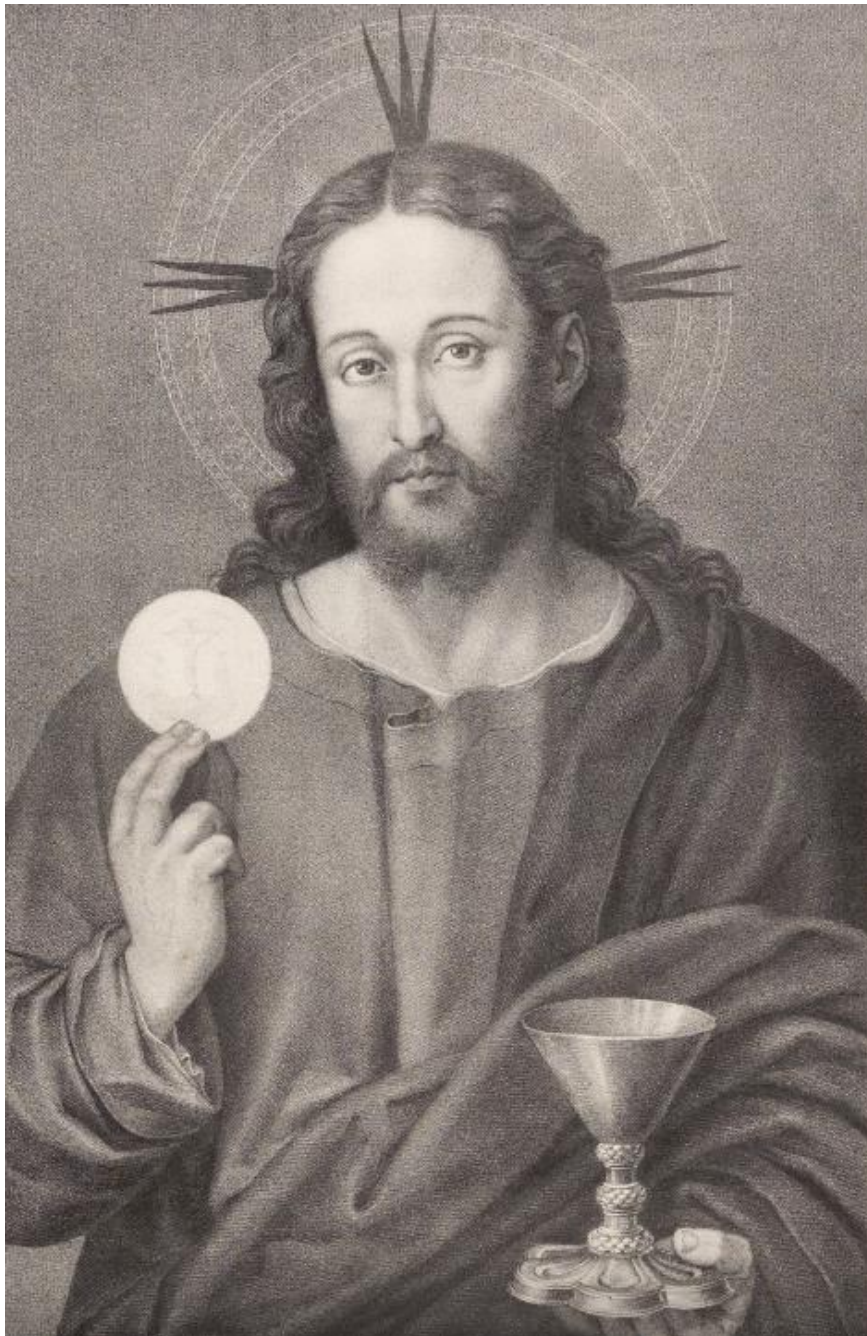




PRAYERS *for* SUNDAYS *in* SEPTEMBER

A resource for praying at home



The **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME**

Sunday, 6th September 2020

THE INTRODUCTION

Light a candle and spend some time in silence if you can to prepare for your time of prayer. Giving thanks for God's great mercy and love, you might want to sing or say this hymn:

DEAR LORD AND FATHER of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.

2. In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.

3. O Sabbath rest by Galilee!
O calm of hills above,
Where Jesus knelt to share with thee
The silence of eternity,
Interpreted by love!

4. Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

5. Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still small voice of calm!

John Whittier (1807-92)

Then, making the sign of the Cross, say:

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

Spend some time in silence, calling to your mind your sins. Then say,

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord, have mercy.

You heal the wounds of our sin and division: Christ, have mercy.

You intercede for us with the Father: Lord have mercy.

Remind yourself of the gift of God's forgiveness, by reading these words from 1 John 1.9: If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then say the Collect: 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 Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Then read today's appointed readings:

- *Ezekiel 33:7-9: If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.*
- *Romans 13:8-10: Love is the answer to the commandments.*

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

- *Matt. 18:15-20: If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.*

Spend some time in quiet contemplation, asking the Holy Spirit to show you what the scriptures have to say to you today. And then pause to pray for the Church, the world and all its needs.



SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Say the OUR FATHER. Then make your act of SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. Spend a moment meditating on Jesus' love for us and your own longing for life in union with him. Then pray:

MY JESUS, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Spend some time in silence, giving thanks, and then say:

Blessed, praised and adored be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory, and in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen. Alleluia!

In thanksgiving, you might want to sing this hymn:

FIRMLY I believe and truly
God is Three, and God is One;
And I next acknowledge duly
Manhood taken by the Son

2. And I trust and hope most fully
In that Manhood crucified;
And each thought and deed unruly
Do to death, as he has died.

3. Simply to his grace and wholly
Light and life and strength belong,
And I love supremely, solely,
Him the holy, him the strong.

4. And I hold in veneration,
For the love of him alone,
Holy Church as his creation,
And her teachings are his own.

5. Adoration ay be given,
With and through the angelic host,
To the God of earth and heaven,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

S. John Henry Newman (1801-90)

Say this concluding prayer: 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. Amen.

And then pray for God's blessing, saying: The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 13th September 2020

Use the structure as above, substituting these hymns and readings:

PRAISE TO THE HOLIEST in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

2. O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

3. O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail;

4. And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
And essence all-divine.

5. O generous love! that he who smote
In Man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo;

6. And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.

7. Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

S. John Henry Newman

The Collect: Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The readings are:

- *Ecclesiasticus (Sirach) 27:30-28:7 – Forgive your neighbour the hurt that he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven.*
- *Romans 14: 7-9: Alive or dead we belong to the Lord*

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

- *Matt 18:21-35: Forgive not seven times, but seventy seven times.*



As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

THERE'S A WIDENESS in God's mercy
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice
Which is more than liberty.

2. There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgement given.

3. For the love of God is broader
Than the measure of man's mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

4. But we make his love too narrow
By false limits of our own;
And we magnify his strictness
With a zeal he would not own.

5. There is plentiful redemption
In the blood that has been shed;
There is joy for all the members
In the sorrows of the Head.

6. There is grace enough for thousands
Of new worlds as great as this;
There is room for fresh creations
In that upper home of bliss.

7. If our love were but more simple,
We should take him at his word;
And our lives would be all gladness
In the joy of Christ our Lord.

F. W. Faber (1814-63)

The concluding prayer: May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 20th September 2020

For an opening hymn, you may wish to sing or say:

1. Fight the good fight with all thy might,
Christ is thy strength, and Christ thy right;
Lay hold on life, and it shall be
Thy joy and crown eternally.

2. Run the straight race through God's
good grace,
Lift up thine eyes, and seek his face;
Life with its way before us lies,
Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

3. Cast care aside, upon thy Guide
Lean, and his mercy will provide;
Lean, and thy trusting soul shall prove
Christ is its life, and Christ its love.

4. Faint not nor fear, his arms are near,
He changeth not, and thou art dear;
Only believe, and thou shalt see
That Christ is all in all to thee.

J.S.B. Monsell (1811-75)

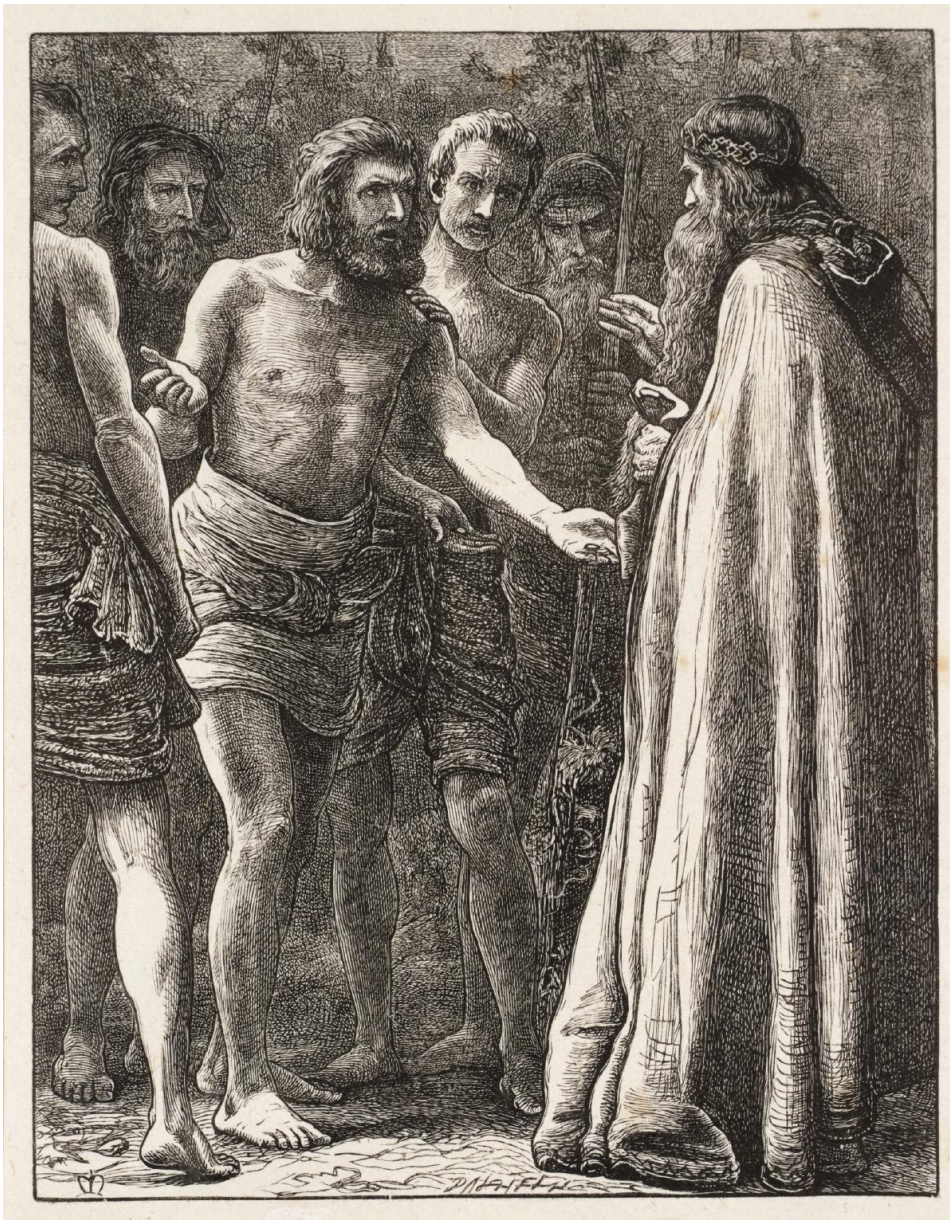
The Collect: O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The readings are:

- *Isaiah 55:6-9: My thoughts are not your thoughts.*
- *Philippians 1:20-27: Life to me is Christ.*

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

- *Matt 20:1-16: Why be envious because I am generous?*



The hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

1. O Jesus, I have promised
To serve thee to the end;
Be thou for ever near me,
My Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle
If thou art by my side,
Nor wander from the pathway
If thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me hear thee speaking
In accents clear and still,
Above the storms of passion,
The murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me,
To hasten or control;
O speak, and make me listen,
Thou guardian of my soul.

3. O Jesus, thou hast promised
To all who follow thee,
That where thou art in glory
There shall thy servant be;
And Jesus, I have promised
To serve Thee to the end;
O give me grace to follow,
My Master and my Friend.

4. O let me see thy footmarks,
And in them plant mine own;
My hope to follow duly
Is in thy strength alone;
O guide me, call me, draw me,
Uphold me to the end;
And then in heaven receive me,
My Saviour and my Friend.

John Bode (1816-74)

The concluding prayer: Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this spiritual communion, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 27th September 2020

For an opening hymn, sing or say:

1. Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2. Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes are closed in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See thee on thy judgement throne;
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Toplady, 1740-78

The Collect: O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The readings are:

- *Ezekiel 18:25-28: The sinner who renounces sin shall certainly live.*
- *Phil 2:1-11: In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus.*

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

- *Matt 21:28-32: Tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you.*

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

1 Jesu, Lover of my soul,
Let me to thy bosom fly,
While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high:
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide
Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.

2 Other refuge have I none,
Hangs my helpless soul on thee;
Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
All my help from thee I bring;
Cover my defenceless head
With the shadow of thy wing.

3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want,
More than all in thee I find:
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is thy name,
I am all unrighteousness;
False and full of sin I am,
Thou art full of truth and grace.

4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
Grace to cover all my sin;
Let the healing streams abound,
Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art,
Freely let me take of thee,
Spring thou up within my heart,
Rise to all eternity.

Charles Wesley, 1707-88

The concluding prayer: May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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