

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.
O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

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

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
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.

FIRST READINGDt 4:1-1:6-8

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.
Moses said to the people: “Now, Israel, take notice of the laws and customs that I teach you today, and observe them, that you may have life and may enter and take possession of the land the Lord the God of your fathers is giving you. You must add nothing to what I command you, and take nothing from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God just as I lay them down for you. Keep them, observe them and they will demonstrate to the peoples your wisdom and understanding. When they come to know of all these laws they will exclaim, “No other people is as wise and prudent as this great nation.” And indeed, what great nation is there that has its gods so near as the Lord our God is to us whenever we call to him? And what great nation is there that has laws and customs to match this whole Law that I put before you today?”
The word of the Lord.

RESP. PSALMPs 14

Response:
The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

1. Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?

- He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. (R.)
2. He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the Lord. (R.)
 3. He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. (R.)

SECOND READINGJm 1:17-18,21-22,27

A reading from the letter of St James.
It is all that is good, everything that is perfect,
which is given us from above; it comes down
from the Father of all light; with him there is
no such thing as alteration, no shadow of a
change. By his own choice he made us his
children by the message of the truth so that
we should be a sort of first-fruits of all that he
had created.
Accept and submit to the word which has
been planted in you and can save your souls.
But you must do what the word tells you, and
not just listen to it and deceive yourselves.
Pure unspoilt religion, in the eyes of God our
Father is this: coming to the help of orphans
and widows when they need it, and keeping
oneself uncontaminated by the world.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPELMk 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
The Pharisees and some of the scribes who
had come from Jerusalem gathered round
Jesus, and they noticed that some of his
disciples were eating with unclean hands,
that is, without washing them. For the
Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the
tradition of the elders and never eat without
washing their arms as far as the elbow; and
on returning from the market place they
never eat without first sprinkling themselves.
There are also many other observances
which have been handed down to them
concerning the washing of cups and pots
and bronze dishes. So these Pharisees and
scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples
not respect the tradition of the elders but
eat their food with unclean hands?” He
answered, “It was of you hypocrites that
Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage
of scripture:
This people honours me only with lip-service,
while their hearts are far from me.
The worship they offer me is worthless,
the doctrines they teach are only human
regulations.
You put aside the commandment of God to
cling to human traditions.”
He called the people to him again and said,
“Listen to me, all of you, and understand.
Nothing that goes into a man from outside
can make him unclean; it is the things that

come out of a man that make him unclean.
For it is from within, from men's hearts, that
evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft,
murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit,
indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All
these evil things come from within and make
a man unclean.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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,
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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this sacred offering, O Lord,
confer on us always the blessing of salvation,
that what it celebrates in mystery
it may accomplish in power.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord,
that you keep for those who fear you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly
table,
we beseech you, Lord,
that, being the food of charity,
it may confirm our hearts
and stir us to serve you in our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

30 AUGUST 2015

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

SundayMessage

THE WORDPsalter week 2

Today’s Gospel has two major themes. The first is a debate about ritual purity and the second is a teaching about what truly defiles a person.

The debate about ritual purity is sparked by the Pharisees who noted that Jesus and his disciples seem to take a more casual approach to the traditional purity laws than they did. The setting seems to be a meal shared by Jesus, his disciples and a group of Pharisees. The Pharisees would have been shocked by the failure of the disciples to wash their hands before eating. Mark lists other examples of Pharisee purity regulations. While the Old Testament had some regulations about ritual purity, groups like the Pharisees made them more exacting. The majority of Jews like the Galilean country folk who followed Jesus had a more relaxed approach to the purity regulations.

Scholars would describe the first section as a ‘controversy story,’ or a story about a religious dispute. It is begins with a question: ‘why do your disciples not wash before eating?’ The climax of a controversy story is a brief but telling statement by Jesus that clinches the argument, much to the discomfort of his critics who are left without a reply. The saying (‘you put aside the commandments of God to cling to human traditions’) is preceded by a quotation from Isaiah 29:13 about lip-service rather than genuine love that honours God.

The second section is addressed to a wider audience (‘he called the people’). Jesus teaches that real purity is not a matter of determining which foods are clean or unclean. What really defiles a person is what comes from their inner depths. Jesus lists twelve vices (fornication, theft etc). The counterpoints to the vices are the virtues that will come from observance of the Ten Commandments. Moral failures, rather than a failure to observe ritual purity, are what truly defile people. ■

LEARN

Jesus said: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice. For I have come to call sinners, not the righteous to repentance.’

Could you identify ‘seven types of Christian’ like the ‘seven types of Pharisee’?



REFLECT

Pharisees get a bad press in the New Testament as joyless legalists. While it is easy to understand how early Christians may have seen them as their main rivals, there were also aspects of the Pharisee tradition that were generous and broad. We can forget that the New Testament includes portraits of good Pharisees, like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who buried Jesus or Gamaliel who cautioned against persecuting the apostles. The Pharisees were quite prepared to criticise their own members who did not make the grade.

One writer lists seven types of Pharisees. ‘The shoulder Pharisee’ carried his good deed on his shoulder for everyone to see. The ‘wait-a-while Pharisee’ needed to know which way the wind was blowing before taking action. The ‘bruised Pharisee’ was constantly bumping into things, walking around with his eyes closed in case he saw a woman. The ‘hump backed Pharisee’ was bent double in mock humility. The ‘ready-reckoner Pharisee’ kept score of his good deeds and the reward he was due. The ‘God fearing Pharisee’ was a good man, but driven by fear. The ‘God loving Pharisee’ was the ideal who followed God through love, not through fear and whose love embraced all of humanity. ■

SAY
“Give us, Lord, minds that are humble, quiet, peaceable, patient and charitable, and a taste of your Holy Spirit in all our thoughts, words, and deeds. Give us, good Lord, the grace to work for the things we pray for.”
[St Thomas More]

DO
Become aware of anything in your attitude towards other people that is based on a failure to understand their religious, cultural or racial background.

PRAY
Pray that divisions between people, based on religious or cultural differences, will be healed.