

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.
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 READING

Ezk 2:2-5

A reading for the prophet Ezekiel.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, "Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, 'The Lord says this.' Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them."

The word of the Lord.

RESP. PSALM

Ps 122

Response:

**Our eyes are on the Lord
till he show us his mercy.**

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes,
you who dwell in the heavens:
my eyes, like the eyes of slaves
on the hand of their lords. (R.)
2. Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of his mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he show us his mercy. (R.)

3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
We are filled with contempt.
Indeed all too full is our soul
with the scorn of the rich,
with the proud man's disdain. (R.)

SECOND READING

2 Cor 12:7-10

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

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, "My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness." So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us;
to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia

GOSPEL

Mk 6:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, "Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joseph and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?" And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house"; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

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 oblation dedicated to your name
purify us, O Lord,
and day by day bring our conduct
closer to the life of heaven.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, having been replenished by such great gifts,
we may gain the prize of salvation
and never cease to praise you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



The home-coming of a famous man usually causes excitement among the neighbours who watched his progress from childhood. So it was with Jesus.

Nazareth was a small place. Archaeologists say it had only about five hundred inhabitants. Word trickled back from Capernaum, fifty kilometres down the road, that this local boy was attracting crowds by his preaching and miracles. When he arrived back with his followers, the small synagogue was crowded the following morning to see if it is all true. Looking around, his critics caught sight of his relatives in the congregation. There were not very impressive. There was his mother, clearly getting older. The rest of them were decent folk but very ordinary. Many probably remembered Jesus as the teenager helping his father Joseph or doing odd jobs around the carpenter's shop. There was nothing special about him. Jesus is saddened by the rejection but not surprised. He reminds them of the old proverb that prophets are always rejected in their own town and by their kin. The closest example of this would be the prophet Jeremiah, whose life in many aspects foreshadows that of Jesus.

The references to the 'brothers and sisters of Jesus' here sometimes causes questions for Catholic readers who believe in the perpetual virginity of Mary. Texts like these can be explained in two ways while still holding to the traditional doctrine. The first, favoured especially by the Orthodox Church, was that they were Joseph's children by an earlier marriage, and so half-siblings of Jesus. The other is that in ancient Israel, family relationships were very fluid, and terms like "brother and sister" were often used of people we would more accurately call cousins. ■

DO

This week, find something to encourage in a young neighbour or friend.

PRAY

Pray for young men and women who are finishing their education this year and moving into work or further training.

LEARN

Young people mature and grow confident in meeting the challenges of life when they are encouraged.

Rejoicing in the good done by others never diminishes the good we do ourselves or lessens our credit.

To fulfil his call, Jesus had to face opposition and the criticism of family and friends was probably the most hurtful of all.

REFLECT

Lionel Blue, an English rabbi, had a great fund of humorous tales with a point. One was about a wealthy, but not very devout, man who had managed to get selected to read an important prayer on the Day of Atonement by giving a large sum of money to the synagogue. It was a prayer of repentance in which the reader confessed the sins of the community, protesting that in God's sight, he was but dust and ashes. When he got to these words, the two bitterest rivals he had outbid for the prayer nudged one another and one said "Look who thinks he is dust and ashes!"

The old saying that familiarity breeds contempt bears out today's Gospel. No matter what Jesus might have done or said that day in Nazareth, for many he would still be 'that poor kid from down the road' and they may have had enough family gossip to prove it would always be so. The gospel invites us to say what we make of Jesus. It also invites us to take stock of how we judge others, especially when we think we know them well. Do we rejoice when they do well or do we place them in a box and lock them in forever? ■

SAY

"O would some power give us the gift, to see ourselves as others see us!" (Robert Burns)