

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Within your will, O Lord, all things are established,
and there is none that can resist your will.
For you have made all things, the heaven and the earth,
and all that is held within the circle of heaven;
you are the Lord of all.

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

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
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

Gn 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.' So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into a deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed:
'This at last is bone from my bones,
and flesh from my flesh!
This is to be called woman
for this was taken from man.'
This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.
The word of the Lord.

RESP. PSALM

Ps 127

Response:

**May the Lord bless us
all the days of our life.**

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 will be 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!
May you see your children's children.
On Israel, peace! (R.)

SECOND READING

Heb 2:9-11

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

We see in Jesus one who was for a short while made lower than the angels and is now crowned with glory and splendour because he submitted to death; by God's grace he had to experience death for all mankind. As it was his purpose to bring a great many of his sons into glory, it was appropriate that God, for whom everything exists and through whom everything exists, should make perfect, through suffering, the leader who would take them to their salvation. For the one who sanctifies, and the ones who are sanctified, are of the same stock; that is why he openly calls them brothers.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL

Mk 10:2-16

(For Shorter Form, read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

>Some Pharisees approached Jesus and asked, 'Is it against the law for a man to divorce his wife?' They were testing him. He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' 'Moses allowed us' they said, 'to draw up a writ of dismissal and so to divorce.' Then Jesus said to them, 'It was because you were so unteachable that he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.' Back in the house the disciples questioned him again about this, and he said to them, 'The man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her. And if a woman divorces her husband and marries another she is guilty of adultery too.' <
People were bringing little children to him, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it

is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arm round them, laid his hands on them, and gave them his blessing.

>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


Accept, O Lord, we pray,
the sacrifices instituted by your commands
and, through the sacred mysteries,
which we celebrate with dutiful service,
graciously complete the sanctifying work
by which you are pleased to redeem us.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord is good to those who hope in him,
to the soul that seeks him.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, almighty God,
that we may be refreshed and nourished
by the Sacrament which we have received,
so as to be transformed into what we
consume.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



"WHAT GOD HAS UNITED, HUMANS MUST NOT DIVIDE"

MARK 10:2-16

The Pharisee movement was not a unified movement with a single ideology, apart from the significance it gave to the 'oral Torah or Law,' its sense that Jewish law was a living, growing thing that went beyond the letter.

This meant that great teachers who attracted disciples because of the clarity of their teaching became founders of schools that kept their name green and their teaching alive. The two leading schools in Jesus' day, those of Shammai and Hillel, differed considerably on what they taught about divorce. Shammai took a strict line, and Hillel a more liberal one. Jesus' questioner may well have been trying to classify him as a liberal or a conservative: whose camp was he in? He was probably ill-prepared for the answer he got.

The difference between the two teachers hung on how they interpreted the meaning of one short Hebrew word. Jesus invites us instead to go back to look at where we might find God's plan for marriage in scripture. You don't find the human ideal simply by looking at laws, since laws are intended to deal with failure. Jesus begins with the creation story. The attraction of

a young man and a young woman for each other is something deeply lodged in human nature. He points to the nature of the physical act of love itself. It is an intimate act of exchange whereby a man and a woman give each other exclusive possession of their body so that they are no longer two but one.

In the Gospels, scenes where Jesus teaches publicly are often followed by more private teaching, addressed to his disciples, 'in the house,' away from the crowd. In Jewish law, a woman could not divorce her husband. In the wider Roman world where the Church was now living out its mission, women had the right to divorce, so the practical question of women and divorce arises. Jesus reminds them that God's vision of marriage does not go hand in hand with what the culture deems marriage should be. Christian discipleship is a call to aim higher. ■

REFLECT

The late Princess Diana made a remarkably tragic statement in a television interview about her failing marriage. "There were three of us in this marriage," she said "so it was a bit crowded." In a very different sense, people who have conferred on each other the sacrament of matrimony know there will always be a third person in their relationship. That third person will not make them anxious or troubled. It is Christ the Bridegroom who brings consolation and hope in time of difficulty, who turns the water of everyday into the sparkling wine of the kingdom of God. ■

LEARN

If love was a feeling and not a decision, then we could fall out of love as quickly as we fall into it!

A wedding is a day: marriage is for life.

Husbands and wives should renew their marriage vows at least once a week.

PRAY

This week, pray for any young people you know who are preparing for marriage that they may fall more deeply in love with each other with every day that passes.

DO

If you are married, take down your wedding album sometime this week, look at it and renew the vows you made on your wedding day.

SAY

"Loving creator, you have made all things in love and hold them gently in the palm of your hand."