

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But with you is found forgiveness,
O God of Israel.

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

May your grace, O Lord, we pray,
at all times go before us and follow after
and make us always determined
to carry out good works.
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

Ws 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom.
I prayed, and understanding was given to me;
I entreated, and the spirit of Wisdom came
to me.
I esteemed her more than sceptres and
thrones;
compared with her, I held riches as nothing.
I reckoned no priceless stone to be her peer,
for compared with her, all gold is a pinch of
sand,
and beside her silver ranks as mud.
I loved her more than health or beauty,
preferred her to the light,
since her radiance never sleeps.
In her company all good things came to me,
at her hands riches not to be numbered.
The word of the Lord.

RESP. PSALM

Ps 89

Response:

Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.

1. Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. (R.)
2. In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misfortune.
(R.)

3. Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on their children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
(R.)

SECOND READING

Heb 4:12-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.
The word of God is something alive and
active: it cuts like any double-edged sword
but more finely: it can slip through the place
where the soul is divided from the spirit,
or joints from the marrow; it can judge the
secret emotions and thoughts. No created
thing can hide from him; everything is
uncovered and open to the eyes of the one to
whom we must give account of ourselves.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 10:17-30

(For Shorter Form, read between > <)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Mark.
>Jesus was setting out on a journey when
a man ran up, knelt before him and put
this question to him, 'Good master, what
must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said
to him, 'Why do you call me good? No
one is good but God alone. You know the
commandments: You must not kill; You must
not commit adultery; You must not steal; You
must not bring false witness; You must not
defraud; Honour your father and mother.'
And he said to him, 'Master, I have kept all
these from my earliest days.' Jesus looked
steadily at him and loved him, and he said,
'There is one thing you lack. Go and sell
everything you own and give the money
to the poor, and you will have treasure in
heaven; then come, follow me.' But his face
fell at these words and he went away sad, for
he was a man of great wealth.
Jesus looked round and said to his disciples,
'How hard it is for those who have riches
to enter the kingdom of God!' The disciples
were astounded by these words, but Jesus
insisted, 'My children,' he said to them, 'how
hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is
easier for a camel to pass through the eye
of a needle than for a rich man to enter the
kingdom of God.' They were more astonished
than ever. 'In that case,' they said to one
another 'who can be saved?' Jesus gazed at
them. 'For men' he said 'it is impossible, but
not for God: because everything is possible
for God.' <
Peter took this up. 'What about us?' he asked
him. 'We have left everything and followed
you.' Jesus said, 'I tell you solemnly, there is
no one who has left house, brothers, sisters,
father, children or land for my sake and for
the sake of the gospel who will not be repaid
a hundred times over, houses, brothers,
sisters, mothers, children and land - not
without persecutions - now in this present
time and, in the world to come, eternal life.'
>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, the prayers of your faithful
with the sacrificial offerings,
that, through these acts of devotedness,
we may pass over to the glory of heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no
blessing.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We entreat your majesty most humbly,
O Lord,
that, as you feed us with the nourishment
which comes from the most holy Body and
Blood of your Son,
so you may make us sharers of his divine
nature.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.



There is an intensely personal dimension to this story of the meeting of Jesus and a prospective disciple. All three synoptic Gospels tell the story but each of them introduces the main character a little differently.

For Matthew, he is a young man. For Luke, he is 'a ruler' or someone of status. For Mark, he is simply 'a man' but later he will tell us that he is a person of great wealth. His question comes from a heart that is in search of something. He is a person of upright life but has an uneasy feeling that something more might be demanded of him. Mark emphasises the attraction Jesus feels for him. 'He looked steadily at him, and loved him.' What was in the face of the young man that so instantly revealed an inner world and gave him to hope that he might be able to live the kind of discipleship life that some of the twelve had difficulties with? If he wants to follow the way of Jesus, it will not be by adding on more prayers, keeping more regulations, but by something much more radical: "Go, sell everything you own and come follow me."

This marks a moment of crisis in this little story. The man's face fell at these words, for he was a man of great wealth. The story seems to presume that he turns away, leaving Jesus looking after him with that same look of compassion that he had fixed on him as he answered his question. ■

PRAY

This week pray especially for men and women who have just begun a journey following Jesus that may lead to priesthood or religious life in community that they may have the generosity of heart not to count the cost in monetary terms alone.

SAY

Lord, give me the freedom of heart to follow you, wherever you may lead.

LEARN

Finding true freedom can take years of trial and error but God waits for us.

It is not golden chains that stop us following the way of Jesus, but delicate threads we hardly even notice.

Where your real treasure is, there will your heart be.

DO

This week, look carefully at the things that stop you from being totally generous in your response to Jesus when he calls you to follow him.

REFLECT

Did the man in the story walk off into the dark, to be seen no more? There is another story, this time in the Gospel of John, about a would-be disciple, a Jewish leader called Nicodemus who comes to Jesus by night (see John 3).

Nicodemus does not declare himself for Jesus all at once. He tries to remain as part of the party of influence, the Sanhedrin but is forced to speak in the name of justice when they try to submit Jesus to a show trial. Only at the end of the Gospel, when Jesus has been murdered, does Nicodemus step out into the light, with another would-be disciple, to claim the body and give it honourable burial.

Sometimes finding the path to discipleship can take time. There may be questions that cannot be answered, decisions to be made that look too demanding, pain that cannot be faced just then. Perhaps we have known 'rich young man' or 'Nicodemus moments' in our own lives when following Jesus seemed just too costly. The great mystic, St John of the Cross once said that a skylark can escape from its cage but if it is retained by a single thread of silk, it will never soar to freedom. Sometimes it is not the big things that stop us following Jesus more closely but the small things that limit our freedom. ■