

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord.
Should they cry to me in any distress,
I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

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 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 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 12:12-20

A reading from the book of Wisdom.
The godless say to themselves,
'Let us lie in wait for the virtuous man, since he annoys us
and oppresses our way of life,
reproaches us for our breaches of the law
and accuses us of playing false to our upbringing.
Let us see if what he says is true,
let us observe what kind of end he himself will have.
If the virtuous man is God's son, God will take his part
and rescue him from the clutches of his enemies.
Let us test him with cruelty and with torture,
and thus explore this gentleness of his
and put his endurance to the proof.
Let us condemn him to a shameful death
since he will be looked after - we have his word for it.'

The word of the Lord.

RESP. PSALM

Ps 53:3-6.8

Response:
The Lord upholds my life.

1. O God, save me by your name;
by your power, uphold my cause.
O God, hear my prayer;
listen to the words of my mouth. (R.)

2. For proud men have risen against me,
ruthless men seek my life.
They have no regard for God. (R.)
3. But I have God for my help.
The Lord upholds my life.
I will sacrifice to you with willing heart
and praise your name for it is good. (R.)

SECOND READING

Jm 3:16-4:3

A reading from the letter of St James.
Wherever you find jealousy and ambition,
you find disharmony, and wicked things of every kind being done; whereas the wisdom that comes down from above is essentially something pure; it also makes for peace, and is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good; nor is there any trace of partiality or hypocrisy in it. Peacemakers, when they work for peace, sow the seeds which will bear fruit in holiness.
Where do these wars and battles between yourselves first start? Isn't it precisely in the desires fighting inside your own selves? You want something and you haven't got it; so you are prepared to kill. You have an ambition that you cannot satisfy; so you fight to get your way by force. Why you don't have what you want is because you don't pray for it; when you do pray and don't get it, it is because you have not prayed properly, you have prayed for something to indulge your own desires.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord,
anyone who follows me
will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Mk 9:30-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.
After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples made their way through Galilee; and he did not want anyone to know, because he was instructing his disciples; he was telling them, 'The Son of Man will be delivered into the hands of men; they will put him to death; and three days after he has been put to death he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he said and were afraid to ask him.
They came to Capernaum, and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the road?' They said nothing because they had been arguing which of them was the greatest. So he sat down, called the Twelve to him and said, 'If anyone wants to be first, he must make himself last of all and servant of all.' He then took a little child, set him in front of them, put his arms round him, and said to them, 'Anyone who welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

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

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray,
the offerings of your people,
that what they profess with devotion and faith
may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept;
may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

WELCOMING CHILDREN

MARK 9:30-37



The opening words of today's Gospel are a clue that a new episode in Mark's story of Jesus has begun. It is the account of the final journey to Jerusalem.

It is a crash course in discipleship for misguided followers. They were expecting that, once he arrived in Jerusalem, Jesus would take up his royal power as Messiah and that they would be the members of his inner cabinet. Jesus begins by outlining what lies ahead – passion and death.

But they miss the point. As they walk along, they argue about who will be first. Jesus gives them a lesson they are unlikely to forget. He takes a child and puts it in front of them. There was no cult of cuddly babies in Jesus' day. For poor families, a child was another mouth to feed they sometimes could ill afford. Sometimes when a baby was born, the midwife would bring it and lay it at the father's feet. If he turned away, it was a declaration that the child was unwanted and so could be exposed to die abandoned. What made both Judaism and Christianity different was the respect they had for the fragile child, even before its birth. It is this fragility that would-be followers of Jesus must learn if they wish to follow him. ■

PRAY

Each day this week pray for parents of unborn or newly born children whose hold on life is fragile.

DO

Show signs that parents who bring their young children to Sunday Mass are welcome – a smile of encouragement, a friendly greeting.

LEARN

Catholic teaching of the value of life before birth is grounded on a deep respect for the human person.

Every life is a gift from God to be welcomed with love.

Respect for life extends from conception to natural death.

REFLECT

Jenna and Dan Haley were delighted when they discovered Jenna was pregnant. They were devastated when they learned from the first scan that their baby boy's brain would not form properly and he would probably die soon after birth. They never stopped to consider abortion as an option.

Instead, they did something very beautiful. They named their unborn son Shane Michael. Then they made a list of all the things they had dreamed of doing as a family and decided to do them with Shane before he was born. The list included favourite things remembered from their own childhood, like visits to the beach and to the zoo, special moments like a visit to New York to see the Empire State building and the Statue of Liberty.

They also brought Shane to holy places that were special for their families, like the shrine of St John Neumann in Philadelphia. Through a Facebook page, "Prayers for Shane," they kept friends and family updated on their progress, encouraging them to pray for the three of them. A month before Shane was due, they had finished the list. They hardly expected their page to attract almost a million "likes," as people followed the adventure of Shane and his parents.

Shane was born early on the morning of 9 October 2014. He lived for just four hours but long enough for his extended family to gather to welcome him into the community of faith in the sacrament of baptism. Announcing his death Jenna and Dan wrote: "Shane spent his entire life in the arms of people that loved him unconditionally and I don't think you could ask for a more beautiful life than that. He is home now with the Lord and he will forever be our little miracle!" ■

SAY

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,
look on me a little child.
Pity my simplicity, suffer me
to come to thee. (Traditional
child's prayer an adult can say)