

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

Ezekiel 2:2-5

A reading from 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.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 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 Corinthians 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.

Thanks be to God.

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

Mark 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 Joset 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.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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,

(all bow during the next three lines)

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.
Through Christ our Lord.
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
REJECTION
OF JESUS AT
NAZARETH**
(MARK 6:1-6)

View from Mount Precipice. It is believed by many to be the site of the Rejection of Jesus.

What a contrast we are presented with today, when compared with the theme of last week's Gospel.

You might remember the scene of Jesus healing Jairus' daughter and the haemorrhaging woman. The characters in the story are marked by their belief and trust in Jesus. As a result of such great acts of healing, crowds will follow Jesus around the countryside and in particular Capernaum. There is something special about this man Jesus. But as soon as he arrives into Nazareth, his home town, he is rejected and laughed at. There is a sceptical inquisitiveness present in today's Gospel story. Who is this man? Where did he get such wisdom? He is just a carpenter's son surely? Sure we know his mother and sisters! Jesus is rejected many times in the Gospels but being rejected by his own family must have been hurtful. "A prophet is only despised among his own relations and in his own house," says Jesus.

With this revelation in mind, it is worth noting that the scene that follows this is Jesus sending out the Twelve in twos, telling them to leave everything behind. It is perhaps Jesus' experience with his own family and friends in Nazareth that inspires a mission that will involve turning one's back on what is familiar and moving away from one's home to preach the Word of God to the world. ■

SAY

"Stay where you are – find your own Calcutta. Find the sick, the suffering, the lonely, right there where you are – in your own homes and in your own families, in your workplaces and schools."

(St Teresa of Calcutta)

DO

Think of a way you can preach the Word of God this week through an action or good deed for someone else.



LEARN

"Whoever wants to preach must be the first to let the Word of God move them deeply and become incarnate in their daily lives."
(Evangelii Gaudium)

REFLECT

Being rejected by work colleagues, peers or family can be difficult to accept. The world is full of stories of rejection. The writer J.K. Rowling was once sacked from her job as a secretary for being a day dreamer, and was then rejected by 12 publishers after writing *Harry Potter*. Oprah Winfrey was fired from her job as a reporter and told she was unfit for TV. Michael Jordan lost his place on his high school basketball team for a 'lack of skill', and Walt Disney was sacked by a newspaper for lacking imagination and having no good ideas. The common thread between all of these, of course, is that they dusted themselves down and carried on regardless.

We cannot say that Jesus' desire was to become world famous or a multi-millionaire like our superstars above. But Jesus had a singular goal and that was to make the God of love and mercy known to the whole world. The task in itself is ambitious but not flawed. He creates a faithful group of followers around him who will know good times and bad. They will see the face of God in the signs and works of Jesus. But they will also experience rejection and disdain from those who fail to understand. Rejection is the theme that emerges regularly during Jesus' mission. His response is to carry on with the support of his true followers, his true friends. After today's difficult experience in his home town of Nazareth, Jesus and his disciples will go out to the whole world and preach the Good News. ■