

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all
the day long.

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 cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
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 Joshua 24:1-2.15-18

A reading from the book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel
together at Shechem; then he called the
elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel,
and they presented themselves before God.
Then Joshua said to all the people: "If you
will not serve the Lord, choose today whom
you wish to serve, whether the gods that
your ancestors served beyond the River, or
the gods of the Amorites in whose land you
are now living. As for me and my House, we
will serve the Lord."

The people answered, "We have no
intention of deserting the Lord our God and
serving other gods. Was it not the Lord our
God who brought us and our ancestors out
of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery,
who worked those great wonders before our
eyes and preserved us all along the way we
travelled and among all the peoples through
whom we journeyed. We too will serve the
Lord, for he is our God."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 33

Response:

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;

in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad. (R.)

2. The Lord turns his face against the
wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the
earth.
The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal. (R.)
3. They call and the Lord hears
and rescues them in all their distress.
The Lord is close to the broken hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will
save. (R.)
4. Many are the trials of the just man
but from them all the Lord will rescue him.
He will keep guard over all his bones,
not one of his bones shall be broken. (R.)
5. Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.
The Lord ransoms the souls of his
servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be
condemned. (R.)

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Ephesians.

Husbands should love their wives just as
Christ loved the Church and sacrificed
himself for her to make her holy. He made
her clean by washing her in water with a
form of words, so that when he took her to
himself she would be glorious, with no speck
or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy
and faultless. In the same way, husbands
must love their wives as they love their own
bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him
to love himself. A man never hates his own
body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and
that is the way Christ treats the Church,
because it is his body - and we are its living
parts. For this reason, a man must leave his
father and mother and be joined to his wife,
and the two will become one body. This
mystery has many implications; but I am
saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

John 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
John.

After hearing his doctrine many of the
followers of Jesus said, "This is intolerable
language. How could anyone accept it?"
Jesus was aware that his followers were
complaining about it and said, "Does this
upset you? What if you should see the Son of
Man ascend to where he was before?"

"It is the spirit that gives life,
the flesh has nothing to offer.
The words I have spoken to you are spirit
and they are life.

"But there are some of you who do not
believe." For Jesus knew from the outset
those who did not believe, and who it was
that would betray him. He went on, "This
is why I told you that no one could come to

me unless the Father allows him." After this,
many of his disciples left him and stopped
going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, "What
about you, do you want to go away too?"
Simon Peter answered, "Lord, who shall we
go to? You have the message of eternal life,
and we believe; we know that you are the
Holy One of God."

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

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by
adoption
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,
bestow graciously on us, we pray,
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

The earth is replete with the fruits of your
work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,
the healing work of your mercy
and graciously perfect and sustain us,
so that in all things we may please you.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

YOU HAVE THE MESSAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE

(JOHN 6:60-69)

You will have noticed over the past number of weeks in the Gospel that Jesus is struggling to convince the crowds of his identity and the significance of his flesh and blood as food for life.

Today, however, it is not the crowds of Jews he is having a problem with, but his own disciples. They describe Jesus' language as intolerable and difficult to accept. They too have been listening to Jesus intently but his sermon on his body being the bread of life is too much for them to take. So Jesus must respond: if such language and imagery upsets you, how are you going to respond when I rise from the dead and return to my Father? This will be the ultimate test of their faith. As he responds to them in this scene, he is looking around and he already knows who will betray him. "There are some of you who do not believe," he says and following this, many of his followers turn their backs on him and walk away. Who can Jesus rely on now? Will the Twelve walk away too, or can they accept this new teaching being offered by Jesus? Simon Peter is the first to speak and it seems that he has full understanding and appreciation for Jesus' teaching. "You have the message of eternal life," he says. In this line, a statement of faith and intent is made. Peter wants to remain with Jesus right to the end. The Holy One of God walks with them and they know that through Jesus, they will find nourishment and life in his body and blood. As we arrive at the end of Chapter 6 of John's Gospel, Jesus' work of evangelisation has just begun. ■

REFLECT

We reflect today on the famous scene we encountered a number of weeks ago in Mark's Gospel, when Jesus turns his back on his own blood family to begin a life of mission with his new family of disciples. It was a crucial moment of faith from Jesus who understood that in order to move on with his mission, the Twelve would prove crucial for the future of the church and the message of redemption. Today's Gospel vindicates this decision of Jesus. Peter's statement is spoken on behalf

of the disciples. They don't turn their backs on Jesus like the other followers do. Instead, this family of believers stay together and begin a journey that will test them at every turn. They will scatter when Jesus is tried before the authorities, before returning again with the power of the Holy Spirit to be preachers and teachers in the early church. Simon Peter's question, "Lord, who shall we go to," exemplifies their commitment to Jesus. They find their home through his presence and love. ■

SAY

"He is generous even to exhaustion; and what is most wonderful is, that He gives Himself thus entirely, not once only, but every day, if we wish it. Every fresh Communion is a new gift which Jesus Christ makes of Himself."

(St Ignatius Loyola)

LEARN

Pope Francis responding to Peter's question, "Lord, who shall we go to?":

"We understand that faithfulness to God is a question about faithfulness to a person. All that we have in this world will not satisfy our hunger for the infinite. We need Jesus, we need to remain with Him, to nourish ourselves at His table, on His words of eternal life."

(Angelus address, August 23, 2015)

DO

The next time you attend Mass, concentrate more fully on the Word of God (first reading, Psalm, second reading and Gospel). Allow the words to affect you and take one message home with you, something that will help you in your relationship with God.

