

**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**

Wisdom 7:7-11

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

I prayed, and understanding was given 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.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 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** Hebrews 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.

Thanks be to God.

**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.<

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**

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.



## HOW MUCH IS JESUS WORTH?

(MARK 10:17-30)

### SAY

**I am truly rich in Jesus.**

### LEARN

It would be more accurate to understand the Fifth Commandment as “you shall not commit murder”.

“You must not defraud”: avoiding paying proper taxes which contribute to the common good would come under this commandment today.

“Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him”: Jesus admired the man’s genuineness and his personal uprightness in observing the Commandments.

Following Jesus today means applying his teachings to our personal circumstances in an appropriate manner.

### DO

When you have to carry heavy bags, think of the camel and the eye of the needle. What are you prepared to give up, in order to inherit eternal life, the Kingdom of God?

In the Gospel, to be a disciple of Jesus means to travel with him. It means to follow Jesus, to go where he leads. In Mark’s version, the evangelist presents this in symbolic terms as literally taking the road with Jesus, the path which will lead to Jerusalem and the cross.

In today’s episode a man comes up and asks how he can inherit eternal life. After an initial and rather sharp rebuke, Jesus tells him that it is not simply a matter of keeping the commandments, but that it will cost him – and cost him dearly. He invites the person concerned to give up his wealth, and therefore his social position, and adopt the itinerant, wandering life of a disciple. This is clearly a step too far for this obviously sincere individual. He is taken aback at Jesus’ words and goes away downcast. Jesus has told him that the cost of eternal life, of entering the Kingdom of God, is to become his disciple, which, in the words of one spiritual writer, will be “costing not less than everything”. Possessions would be an encumbrance to the missionary activity and outlook of the disciples. Mark reveals at the end of the scene that the person concerned is in fact extremely wealthy; as someone who has always observed the Law, he would have used his wealth for the benefit of those less fortunate. Jesus invites him to join the circle of his disciples and we are once more given a picture of a person’s reaction to this invitation. In this case, it is a regretful refusal: the cost is too great. ■

### REFLECT

**T**he subject of possessions and wealth is one which arises often in the Gospel narrative and causes all sorts of problems for Christians who want to be true disciples of Jesus. For most people the teaching about selling everything, then leaving home and family to follow Jesus is simply not appropriate. Perhaps we might look at the question from the point of view of our priorities. What is the

most important focus of our lives? It is not a question of Jesus first to the exclusion of all else; if we have a family or other responsibilities, then that is how we live our being a disciple of Jesus. But from time to time, for instance in the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent, the liturgy asks us to look at our lives and see if our focus is still on the essentials or whether other, even important matters have crept in and are distracting us from the true

values of our faith and how we live those in our daily lives. The biblical prophets and the early teachers of the faith regard accumulating wealth for its own sake, while other people lack the basic necessities of life, as an offence against God. For them it is a question of justice: a question which many rich individuals and nations should ask themselves today – if they have the courage. ■