

**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,  
God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Is 66:18-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather the  
nations of every language. They shall come  
to witness my glory. I will give them a sign and  
send some of their survivors to the nations: to  
Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech, Rosh, Tubal, and  
Javan, to the distant islands that have never  
heard of me or seen my glory. They will proclaim  
my glory to the nations. As an offering to the  
Lord they will bring all your brothers, on horses,  
in chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries,  
from all the nations to my holy mountain in  
Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites bringing  
oblations in clean vessels to the Temple of the  
Lord. And of some of them I will make priests  
and Levites, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Ps 116 (117)

Response:

**Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good  
News.**

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples! (R.)
2. Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever. (R.)

**SECOND READING**

Heb 12:5-7, 11-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in  
which you are addressed as sons? My son,  
when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it  
lightly; but do not get discouraged when he  
reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones  
that he loves and he punishes all those that he  
acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is part of  
your training; God is treating you as his sons.  
Has there ever been any son whose father did  
not train him? Of course, any punishment is  
most painful at the time, and far from pleasant;  
but later, in those on whom it has been used,  
it bears fruit in peace and goodness. So hold  
up your limp arms and steady your trembling  
knees and smooth out the path you tread; then  
the injured limb will not be wrenched, it will grow  
strong again.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will  
keep my word,  
and my Father will love him, and we shall  
come to him. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Lk 13:22-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke

Through towns and villages Jesus went  
teaching, making his way to Jerusalem.  
Someone said to him, 'Sir, will there be only a  
few saved?' He said to them, 'Try your best to  
enter by the narrow door, because, I tell you,  
many will try to enter and will not succeed.'

'Once the master of the house has got up  
and locked the door, you may find yourself  
knocking on the door, saying, "Lord, open to  
us" but he will answer, "I do not know where you  
come from." Then you will find yourself saying,  
"We once ate and drank in your company; you  
taught in our streets" but he will reply, "I do not  
know where you come from. Away from me, all  
you wicked men!"

'Then there will be weeping and grinding of  
teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and  
Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of  
God, and yourselves turned outside. And men  
from east and west, from north and south, will  
come to take their places at the feast in the  
kingdom of God.

'Yes, there are those now last who will be first,  
and those now first who will be last.'

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.

May the Lord, support us all the day long, until  
the shadows lengthen,  
and the evening comes, and the busy world is  
hushed, and the fever of life is over,  
and our work is done. Then in your mercy, grant  
us a safe lodging and a holy rest,  
and peace at the last.

Blessed Saint John Henry Newman

# Sunday Message

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## THE WORD

Year C • 24 August 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 1



Today's readings are about inclusiveness, about the open, all-embracing, nature of the Kingdom of God. It's a place where all are welcome.

Jesus is making his way to Jerusalem when someone asks him to estimate how many will be saved. But he says that this is the wrong question. The real question is not 'how many' but 'how.' How does one get into the kingdom?

Jesus then offers advice on how to enter. The kingdom is like a narrow door, he says. The door is not so wide that anyone can just walk through. Because it is narrow, individuals will have to make an effort to get through it.

Nor does the door remain open indefinitely. Like any respectable establishment, the kingdom has a closing time. It's no good coming after hours. Some make desperate attempts to persuade the host to let them in. They claim a spurious relationship with him, saying that they ate and drank with him, that they heard him speak. But the Lord is not impressed with these superficial claims to friendship. Casual acquaintance is no substitute for true discipleship.

The pain of exclusion is made worse for the latecomers when they see how easy it was to gain entry. Almost anybody can get in. Inside there are rich and poor, men and women, people of every background from every corner of the globe. Membership of the kingdom is open to anyone. The only requirement is to hear the word of God and keep it.

Today's first reading from the Book of Isaiah makes the same point. This book was written after the Jews returned from years of exile in the foreign city of Babylon. They were perhaps tempted to consider themselves as favoured by God, as superior to others, and that no other nation shared their privileges as God's chosen people.

But Isaiah has a surprise for them: God will create a new people that will include outsiders and not just the people of Israel. These people will be invited to come to the Holy City and some will even become priests in the new temple. Membership is open to everyone, irrespective of race or background. It's a broad vision of inclusiveness.

The lesson of today's readings is obvious. God wants us to share eternal life with him in his kingdom. It is an open invitation extended to all, but we can't presume entry. We can't take it for granted. We must choose to belong. A seat in the kingdom requires that we do our best to live up to our baptismal calling. It requires that we remain faithful to Christ and his Good News every day of our lives. ■

## REFLECT

There's nothing worse than being excluded from something, especially if you feel you should have been invited. Many friendships have ended because of a failure to invite somebody to a wedding or other celebration. Those not invited feel hurt, snubbed, let down. It's a wound that takes a long time to heal, or may never heal at all.

In today's Gospel Jesus talks about people being excluded from the kingdom of God, and how they will feel left out in the cold. No matter how hard they try to get in, they are refused entry. The door will remain closed to them.

It sounds harsh, but there is a difference between those not invited to a party and the individuals Jesus is talking about. The difference is that everyone receives an invitation to the feast in God's kingdom. Those who end up being excluded are those who choose to exclude themselves, those who snub the invitation. By not being faithful to Christ and his teaching, they choose to cut themselves off from the kingdom of God. When the door is closed to them, they will have only themselves to blame. ■

## SAY

**"Lord, help me to be faithful to you, so that I will be able to enjoy eternal life in your heavenly kingdom. Amen."**

## DO

Think about the choices you make every day, and whether or not they bring you closer to God.

## PRAY

Pray for Christians throughout the world that they will grow in the love of God, and so will be found worthy of a place in God's kingdom.

## LEARN

Everybody is invited to the feast of God's kingdom

The key to our salvation is that we hear the word of God and keep it