

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord,
you have done with true judgement,
for we have sinned against you
and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according to the bounty of
your mercy.

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 manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your
promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.
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

Ez 18:25-28

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: "You object, 'What the Lord does is unjust.' Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.'

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 24:4-9

Response:

Remember your mercy, Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. (R.)

2. Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. (R.)
3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path,
he teaches his way to the poor. (R.)

SECOND READING

Phil 2:1-11

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Philippians (Shorter form read Phil 2:1-5)

>>If our life in Christ means anything to you,
if love can persuade at all or the Spirit that
we have in common, or any tenderness and
sympathy, then be united in your convictions
and united in your love, with a common purpose
and a common mind. That is the one thing
which would make me completely happy.
There must be no competition among you, no
conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing.
Always consider the other person to be better
than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own
interests first but everybody thinks of other
people's interests instead. In your minds you
must be the same as Christ Jesus:<<

His state was divine,
yet he did not cling
to his equality with God
but emptied himself
to assume the condition of a slave,
and became as men are;
and being as all men are,
he was humbler yet,
even to accepting death,
death on a cross.
But God raised him high
and gave him the name
which is above all other names
so that all beings in the heavens,
on earth and in the underworld,
should bend the knee at the name of Jesus
and that every tongue should acclaim
Jesus Christ as Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

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

Mt 21:28-32

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders
of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man
had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My
boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He
answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought
better of it and went. The man then went
and said the same thing to the second who
answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which
of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they
said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax
collectors and prostitutes are making their way
into the kingdom of God before you. For John
came to you, a pattern of true righteousness,
but you did not believe him, and yet the tax
collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing

that, you refused to think better of it and believe
in him.'

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

Grant us, O merciful God,
that this our offering may find acceptance with
you
and that through it the wellspring of all blessing
may be laid open before us.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,
by which you have given me hope.
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord,
restore us in mind and body,
that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ,
to whose suffering we are united
whenever we proclaim his Death.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Sunday Message

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 27 September 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2

HUMBLE OF HEART

PHIL 2:1-11



In today's second reading, St Paul offers advice to the church in Philippi on the importance of humility. It would make him completely happy, he tells them, if there were no competition or conceit among them, if they put others' interests before their own. They must be united in love, with a common purpose and a common mind.

To illustrate his point, Paul then includes a poem or hymn about the humility of Jesus: how he emptied himself to become human and humbled himself further still by accepting death on a cross. But God had raised Jesus up and given him a name above all other names.

Jesus is our model of humility. The only ambition the Christian must have is to love and serve others. ■

DO

Holiness is reacting with meekness and humility, Pope Francis said. Do you think people see you as humble?

SAY

"Lord, open my eyes and heart to see and serve you in my sisters and brothers. Amen."

PRAY

This is World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Pray for migrants and refugees, that they will be treated with respect as children of God.

LEARN

The proof of our faith is in our living of it

The Christian is called to a life of love and service

It's never too late to say "yes" to God

REFLECT

The 17-year-old was working with a gang building a road in the Texas hill country in the 1920s. The road was being built by hand, and the tall, gangly teenager was pushing a scoop, a plough-like instrument with a sharpened front edge, that was pulled by four mules. It was back-breaking work, difficult even for older, stronger men. At lunch break each day, as they sat eating, the teenager would talk big to the older men. "He wanted to do something big with his life," one of his workmates recalled. "And he was quite specific about what he wanted to do: 'I'm going to be president of the United States one day,'" he boasted.

They laughed at him, this poor boy from nowhere. It's the sort of idle claim many people make, except this youth was deadly serious. And he began to work towards realising that dream - first as a school teacher, then a congressional aide, then a congressman, then a senator, then U.S. vice-president, and finally, on 22 November 1963, president. Lyndon B. Johnson's lifelong ambition was fulfilled, albeit in the most tragic of circumstances. His life is a study in ambition: how to set a goal, a target, and never let go until it comes true.

Ambition takes many forms. It can be political, like LBJ. Or to be rich or famous, or to succeed in business or sport.

But what does ambition mean for the follower of Jesus? Christian ambition is the opposite of worldly ambition. It turns our usual understanding of ambition on its head. It is about being least, being last, being a servant, being little, being humble.

Jesus was big into humility. He chose the sick over the healthy, the weak over the powerful, the poor over the rich. He didn't select scholars and big shots as his apostles but fishermen and ordinary types. He practised humility. He washed feet, mixed with outcasts and died with criminals. "I have given you an example," he said, "that you also must follow."

What does it mean for us to be humble?

First, to be humble is to be self-aware. It is to know we are not perfect, that we are pilgrims on the journey. No matter how hard we try, we come up short. Despite our best efforts, we sin all the time. It's the one thing we all have in common. Humility is being aware of our unworthiness, our shadow side. It means being without ego or conceit. How can we look down on another when we know we're not perfect ourselves?

We acknowledge our humility before Holy Communion when we say, "Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof..." I don't deserve you.

Second, to be humble is to be selfless. It demands that we set aside our selfish obsessions, ambitions, and desires and give ourselves to the other. Humility washes feet and loves without exception. Think of the last judgment scene in Matthew 25. On what basis will God separate the saved from the lost? I was hungry, and you gave me food; thirsty, and you gave me drink; a stranger, and you made me welcome, naked, and you clothed me; sick or in prison, and you came to see me. Humility is selflessness writ large.

Third, to be humble is to be prayerful. Archbishop Fulton Sheen said that "Only the humble can pray, for prayer presumes we need someone and something." Prayer presumes humility. When we ask God for something, or thank God for something, we are admitting our need for God, that on our own we can do nothing. And so we turn to God in our need, our gratitude, our joy, our heartbreak. We place ourselves before the God who gives us life. That's what we do every time we pray. Humility is at the heart of the Christian life. ■