

## Order for Liturgy of the Word

### Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

#### Entrance Antiphon: Leader

Cf Ps 28&27): 8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for the one he has anointed. Save your people, Lord, and bless your heritage, and govern them for ever.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Sisters and Brothers, God desires to converse with us through his Word. Let us bless him for his goodness. Blessed be God forever. **Response:** Blessed be God forever.

#### Introduction: Leader

We gather today to celebrate the Lord's Day. One with our sisters and brothers and with the entire Church, we will listen to God's Word and join in prayer. So, as we prepare to hear of God's love poured out through Christ, let us acknowledge that He is the source of pardon and strength.

#### All: *The Confiteor*

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Leader:** In acknowledgement and thanksgiving for God's mercy we offer our praise:

#### All: *The Gloria*

Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to men 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 the 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.

**Leader:** Let us pray

Grant, O Lord, that we may always revere and love your holy name, for you never deprive of your guidance those you set firm on the foundation of your love. 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:** A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah: 20: 10-13

Jeremiah said: "I hear the whisperings of many: 'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!' All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine. 'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.' But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion: my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph. In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion. O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause. Sing to the LORD, praise the LORD, for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

The word of the Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35**

**R. (14c) Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

For your sake I bear insult, and shame covers my face. I have become an outcast to my brothers, a stranger to my children, Because zeal for your house consumes me, and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall upon me.

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

I pray to you, O LORD, for the time of your favor, O God! In your great kindness answer me with your constant help. Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness; in your great mercy turn toward me.

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

"See, you lowly ones, and be glad; you who seek God, may your hearts revive! For the LORD hears the poor, and his own who are in bonds he spurns not. Let the heavens and the earth praise him, the seas and whatever moves in them!"

**R. Lord, in your great love, answer me.**

## Second reading:

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

5: 12-15

Brothers and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned— for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come. But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

The word of the Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God

## Gospel acclamation:

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord; and you also will testify.

**R.** Alleluia, alleluia.

## Gospel proclamation:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

10:26-33

Jesus said to the Twelve: “Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **R.** Praise to you, lord Jesus Christ.

**Having listened to God's word in these passages from Holy Scripture we now profess our faith in all that He has revealed:**

**All—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,  
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.

## Prayers of the Faithful—Leader

**Introduction:** Lord, placing our faith and trust in you we humbly offer our petitions:

**Intentions:** For elected leaders: that God will give them insight into the effects of their decisions and help them to make choices that will bring about the greatest good for society; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church: that we may live in the confident assurance of God's abiding concern and providential care for us; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For the gift of courage: that we may confidently bear witness to our Christian values and principles even in times of opposition and resistance from the culture around us; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For all fathers and those who extend a father's love to us and others: that God will grant them health, guidance, and courage, to persevere in incarnating our heavenly Father's love; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For all who are ill and anxious about health during this time: may they find peace in knowing that God will never leave them; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died: having acknowledged God in life may they now find acknowledgment by him and rest in his presence; we pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Prayer:** Lord, you are our strength and saving refuge. Relying on the firm foundation of your love we offer these prayers through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

## **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Leader:** Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:

**All:** Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**Leader:** With the love of Christ, let us offer one another a sign of peace.

**Leader: Communion Antiphon:** The eyes of all look to you, Lord, and you give them their food in due season. Ps 145(144):15

## **All—Spiritual Communion:**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

## **Leader: Prayer After Communion**

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

**Response:** Amen.

## **Blessing—making the sign of the cross:**

**Leader:** May the Lord bless us, protect us, and bring us to everlasting life.

**Response:** Amen.

**Leader:** Let us go in peace.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

Arguing is different from witnessing. Proclaiming is different from denouncing.

Defining Ourselves: in the First Reading we have a “good-guy/bad-guy” arrangement. To understand our reading more clearly, it is helpful to read the disturbing prophesy Jeremiah is announcing in the previous chapter (Jeremiah 19).

In brief the prophet, who feels God seduced him, is told he must go out of town with some elders and announce the terrible tidings about their future. He tells them all exactly why God is going to send them all into captivity, because they have been profaning the temple with false-god worship. Then Jeremiah goes right into the courtyard of the temple and repeats the whole condemnation.

What we hear today are verses which follow Jeremiah’s being imprisoned and beaten for speaking the word of God. So to compound his troubles Jeremiah tells the temple priest and police guard that they too are going to not only be banished into captivity in a foreign land, but will die and be buried there.

This is a triple curse. Jeremiah believes what the Lord has given him to say and what we hear is a lament and a boast of faith. First we hear how all are waiting to catch him in his non-observing practices. They would like to catch him saying one thing and yet doing something else. “Is he as good as he says he is and we ought to be.”

Then Jeremiah’s spirit revives as he sings a song of trust, joy, and a little hint of revengefulness. He makes a boast of great trust in the God who has seduced him and this gives him strength to stay faithful to his calling.

However, if one were to read the verses beyond those of our First Reading, one might hear him again curse the day his mother gave him birth. Our spirits do not stay as high as they can reach at times. Jeremiah, for all his curses and woes, kept calling Israel to be faithful even when he didn’t feel too faithful himself.

Like Jeremiah, Jesus in today’s Gospel is telling it like it has to be told. In the very presence of the religious elders who are in an unholy alliance with the dominating Roman imperial powers, Jesus is telling his disciples not to be afraid of any power, Roman or religious, who can harm the body. As for those who can harm the soul, be very afraid of that power.

The important thing here is what powers are bothering our souls, hurting them, killing their spirits. What imperial powers are dominating our hearts, our ways of choosing and acting? Shouldn’t how we live actually insult the pretending-powers of our times?

A certain student told me he would like to borrow one of my sweaters, because they are so out of fashion that he would enjoy being different “like you are Father.”

What is out of fashion is anything I have in my closet or chest of drawers. This is simple. What is more difficult is buying into the simplicity and stability of Jesus and letting how we choose and how we speak and how we define ourselves be our strongest religious argument.

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Art: *Saint Peter Invited to Walk On The Water* by Francois Boucher