

## Order for Liturgy of the Word

### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

#### Entrance Antiphon: Leader

God is in this holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people. Cf. Ps 68 (67): 6-7, 36

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 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:

Lord Jesus, you came to reconcile us to one another and to the Father; Lord, have mercy.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you heal the wounds of sin and division: Christ, have mercy.

**Response:** Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you intercede for us with your Father; Lord, have mercy.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

**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

O Lord, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure. 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 First Book of Kings: 3:5, 7-12

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you." Solomon answered: "O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?" The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him: "Because you have asked for this— not for a long life for yourself, nor for riches, nor for the life of your enemies, but for understanding so that you may know what is right— I do as you requested. I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you." The word of the Lord. **R.** Thanks be to God

**Responsorial Psalm** Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

**R.** (97a) **Lord, I love your commands.**

I have said, O LORD, that my part is to keep your words. The law of your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces.

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

Let your kindness comfort me according to your promise to your servants. Let your compassion come to me that I may live, for your law is my delight.

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

For I love your command more than gold, however fine. For in all your precepts I go forward; every false way I hate. **R. Lord, I love your commands.**

Wonderful are your decrees; therefore I observe them. The revelation of your words sheds light, giving understanding to the simple.

**R. Lord, I love your commands.**

### Second reading:

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

**8: 28-30**

Brothers and sisters: We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

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

### Gospel acclamation:

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; for you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel proclamation:

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:

**13: 44-52**

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls. When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away. Thus it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. "Do you understand all these things?" They answered, "Yes." And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

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

What we hear in today's First Reading is one of those famous "biblical dreams." God asks Solomon to request something for himself. He asks for the spirit or gift of discernment. He knows the vastness of God's people but how is he to know what is right and just? God not only grants what Solomon asks for but more. Solomon has not asked for selfish gifts of riches, a long life, nor the death of the enemies of Israel. So as a second gift God will give him these as well. More precious than these is the gift of a "wise heart" with understanding. There is also the promise that there will never be any other known to be wiser and more discerning than Solomon.

The wisdom of Jesus, which Matthew is calling the "kingdom of heaven," penetrates today's Gospel. These are parables directed more to the scribes and Jewish leaders who are becoming, or being tempted or invited, to become disciples of Jesus.

It is similar to a young man who wishes to marry his true love. She comes from within her family of origin. He must "buy into" her family with all its earthliness which she will carry into the marriage. So he buys the whole field—at least in the ideal.



If one discovers Jesus as of ultimate value then everything else upon which one relies on for his/her value and identity must be laid aside. Those things and/or relationships have value but Jesus is to become ultimate and all else retains its value in and with and through him. Now, the "new," which is Jesus, fulfills, highlights and continues the "old." .

Jesus is the new "treasure" buried in the field of humanity. Once we understand the value of the relationship which Jesus offers, we let go of all that gave us value before, and buy the "field" with the "treasure" buried in it.

Larry Gillick, SJ.

"The kingdom of heaven is like ..." In these three parables, what motivates the actions of the person, merchant, and fishermen is that they have already come upon the extreme good that they seek: the treasure in the field, the pearl of great price, the catch of fish. So it is with us. We have already come upon the extreme good that we spend our lives seeking: the kingdom of heaven. The challenge is to give our all to attain it.

*[Living Liturgy: Spirituality, Celebration, and Catechesis](#) for Sundays and Solemnities Year A - 2020.*

Brian Schmisek, Diana Macalintal, and Katy Beedle Ric

**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:** Nourished by God’s word we pray that the kingdom of God will grow and reign in the hearts of people everywhere and so we pray:

### Intentions:

For the Church: that the Spirit of Jesus will permeate its members so that we become God’s people, God’s glory, God’ honor and God’s boast; we pray to the Lord.

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

For those who have become focused on the desires of their own hearts; created their own gods, and worship their own pleasures: may they change their ways, cling to God, and come to love His commands “more than gold”; we pray to the Lord.

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

For youth: may they follow the example of young Solomon and, before success, power, and material goods, seek the true Wisdom of the Spirit and find guidance throughout their life; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us: may we sincerely and heartily long for the Kingdom of Heaven and seek it as the true treasure prepared for us and value it as God’s gift of great worth; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are sick: may they experience the comforting presence of God, be given the help they need from medical professionals, and receive tenderness from family, friends, and the Church; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have died: may angels carry them into the presence of God where they rest forever in the field of glory; we pray to the Lord. **Response:** Lord, hear our prayer.

**Prayer:** Lord God, you rule and guide our lives by the truth of your word. It consoles us in times of need and rejoices with us in times of joy. It is to us “more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces!” May we go forward even in times of darkness knowing that we go forward in the light of your love and care; we ask this, and all that we have placed before you, 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:**

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

Ps 103 (102): 2

## **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: A Prayer After Spiritual Communion**

We have recalled, O Lord, the divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation. 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.

## *Closing Thoughts*

“Perhaps the deepest wisdom we hear this Sunday is in the Second Reading. You or I have undoubtedly quoted its words, not remembering where they came from: “All things work for the good for those who love God.” The older I get, the more true this seems. Even when darkness and loss become our daily bread, still the love of God labors incessantly to bring out larger love, larger forgiveness, more acceptance of life and love, even within pain. This is food we all need every day.

Sunday, if we find a way of attending Mass, or even if not, we can pay attention to such a variety of wisdom made present to us and for us. The important thing is not to just sit there and gape but to do what every other human being in the world would do if they were given a glimpse into the kingdom.

John Foley SJ



*Some seek pleasures in every variation imaginable. They fall away sated but restless.*

John Kavanaugh, SJ