

THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
2nd August 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of the Cross

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

A: Amen.

Introduction

L: Today Saint Matthew tells us of what might be the most famous miracle Jesus worked – the feeding of the 5,000. As we come together to be nourished by Jesus, we ask for God's mercy, and praise God this Sunday as we say:

Gloria

A: 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.

Opening prayer

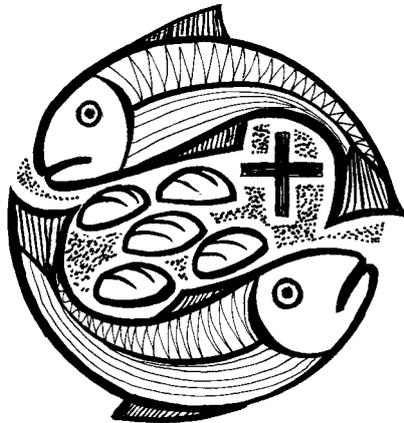
L: Let us pray.

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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.

A: Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



Gospel reading *Matthew 14:13-21*

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick. When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected

the scraps remaining; twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Reflection

Every miracle is a message. Jesus does not just teach by means of parables or discourses, but by his actions. Every miracle he works is proclaiming something about the Kingdom of Heaven, just as the parables we have been listening to recently. In the Kingdom of Heaven no one goes hungry; whatever their face or nationality, there is as much as everyone wants, with baskets to spare. As we contemplate this miracle – performed once, long ago, for one group in one place – we must think about the *message* of the miracle: Jesus proclaims there will be an end to hunger. But how will this happen? Only if we who believe are willing to "be the miracle" in our own day and age, to work for an end to hunger, to usher in the Kingdom of God in all its glorious perfection!

A Thought for our Younger

Friends

Can you imagine organising a meal for FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE?! But that is just what Jesus does in today's Gospel story. I wonder if anyone moaned about only having bread or fish? Perhaps they were so hungry that they didn't care what they had, as long as there was just some food. There are, as you know, lots of people (even children) in our world today who are hungry because there is no food in their country, or because their families cannot afford to buy it. Ask mum or dad if you can look at the CAFOD

website, to see what they do to help people have food. You can also look at the ways local food-banks help people. And perhaps you might want to be part of the miracle today – to do something to help Jesus feed people in our world now!

Profession of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions

L: Let us pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

L: We pray for people who are hungry, both here at home and throughout the world. We pray for the generosity of others, and for the work of Foodbanks, CAFOD and other charities that help feed the hungry. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for the family of the Church, nourished by the Bread of Life, especially for those most missing Holy Communion at this time. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

L: We pray for our own families and our local community, remembering anyone who is in need of spiritual nourishment at this time. Lord, in your mercy ...

A: Hear our prayer.

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

L: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

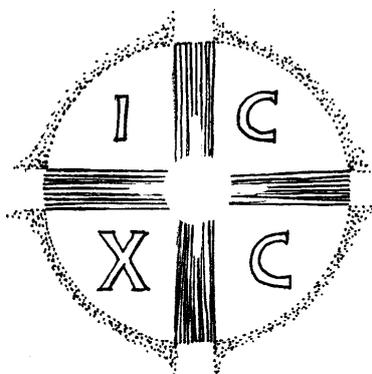
A: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

L: Graciously sanctify all we offer you, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

Preparation for Spiritual Communion

L: Almighty Father, you laid the foundations of the world and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; you formed humanity in your own image and set them over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made and for ever praise you in your mighty works. At the Last Supper your beloved Son showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.



Spiritual Communion

A: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament

of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.

Thanksgiving Psalm

L: You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

L: The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.

A: You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

L: The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live.

A: You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

L: The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, who call on him from their hearts.

A: You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant our desires.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

Final Prayer and Blessing

L: Let us pray.

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

L: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

A: Amen.

L: Let us bless the Lord!

A: Thanks be to God!