

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you came to gather the nations into the peace of God's kingdom:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You come in word and sacrament to strengthen us in holiness:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You will come in glory with salvation for your people:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us... **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glorify 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

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours. Through our Lord Jesus Christ....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING 1 Kings 17:10-16

A reading from the Book of Kings

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called after her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two to go and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."



The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 145:7-10

R. My soul, give praise to the Lord.

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed. It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **[R]**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down. It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger. **[R]**

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. **[R]**

SECOND READING Hebrews 9:24-28

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one, but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once and after that comes judgement, so Christ too, offers himself only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation those who are waiting for him.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSEL ACCLAMATION

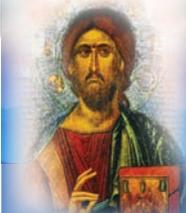
Alleluia, alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

GOSEL Mark 12:38-44 (*shorter form 12:41-44)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

**He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put more*



focus on sunday

Prisoners' Sunday

The selfless generosity of the two women in today's readings is but a sign of God's generosity in giving himself in his Son, Jesus Christ. We too are called to give all that we have and trust that God will look after us.

*in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.**

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

NICENE CREED

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 for following 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.



Love giving until it hurts' –Mother Teresa.

The poor woman of today's gospel, a widow who would have had little to live on, is praised not for the amount she contributed, but that she gave everything! The story is more than factual, and maybe Jesus was exaggerating, but he is talking about giving to God, in a way that sometimes costs. Mother Teresa speaks of 'love giving until it hurts'. Jesus is also comparing her humble giving, with the showy giving of other richer people. Does the latter, subconsciously, describe my giving? What is the value of giving in order for others to see? (Let not your right hand know what your left hand is doing).

Maybe what we give to the lives of others doesn't look much, but it has helped. We know this from the time spent by parents on their children, in time given to the elderly in the family and in the neighbourhood, in giving some money and going without other things in our lives, so that we can do that. Love given is never love emptied, for the in giving, we receive.

We never know where the effects of our love will bear fruit. Faith shared with our children may bear fruit long after we are dead. In later life people often go to the prayers and devotions they were taught in school or at home. Goodness and love shared is never wasted. Even though the lady of the gospel gave a lot, she went home the richer for it. Her religion was in the sharing of her heart, rather than lengthy and wordy prayers.

This was the prayer of St Francis –lord make me a means of your peace; where there is hatred let me sow love... for it is in giving that we receive and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Donal Neary SJ, (editor Sacred Heart Messenger).