

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Lord became my protector.
He brought me out to a place of freedom;
he saved me because he delighted in me.

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

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,
that the course of our world
may be directed by your peaceful rule
and that your Church may rejoice,
untroubled in her devotion.
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 Ecc 27:4-7

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus
In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind,
so too the defects of a man appear in his talk.
The kiln tests the work of the potter,
the test of a man is in his conversation.
The orchard where the tree grows is judged on
the quality of its fruit,
similarly a man's words betray what he feels.
Do not praise a man before he has spoken,
since this is the test of men.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Ps 91(92):2-3.13-16

Response:
It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

1. It is good to give thanks to the Lord
to make music to your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your truth in the watches of the night.
(R.)
2. The just will flourish like the palm-tree
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. (R.)
3. Planted in the house of the Lord
they will flourish in the courts of our God,
still bearing fruit when they are old,
still full of sap, still green,
to proclaim that the Lord is just.
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Cor 15:54-58

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the
Corinthians

When this perishable nature has put on
imperishability, and when this mortal nature has
put on immortality, then the words of scripture
will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory.
Death, where is your victory? Death, where is
your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and
sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank
God for giving us the victory through our Lord
Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never
admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's
work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you
cannot be labouring in vain.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Open our hearts, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 6:39-45

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. "Can one
blind man guide another? Surely both will fall
into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his
teacher; the fully trained disciple will always
be like his teacher. Why do you observe the
splinter in your brother's eye and never notice
the plank in your own? How can you say to your
brother, 'Brother, let me take out the splinter
that is in your eye,' when you cannot see the
plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank
out of your own eye first, and then you will see
clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in
your brother's eye.

"There is no sound tree that produces rotten
fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces
sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its
own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns,
nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man
draws what is good from the store of goodness
in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from
the store of badness. For a man's words flow
out of what fills his heart."

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

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your
name
and count our oblations as signs
of our desire to serve you with devotion,
we ask of your mercy
that what you grant as the source of merit
may also help us to attain merit's reward.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful
with me,
sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most
High.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by your saving gifts,
we beseech your mercy, Lord,
that by this same Sacrament
with which you feed us in the present age,
you may make us partakers of life eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Lent is like a long 'retreat' during which we can
turn back into ourselves and listen to the voice
of God, in order to defeat the temptations of the
Evil One. It is a period of spiritual 'combat' which
we must experience alongside Jesus, not with
pride and presumption, but using the arms of
faith: prayer, listening to the word of God and
penance. In this way we will be able to celebrate
Easter in truth, ready to renew the promises of
our Baptism.

Pope Benedict XVI

Sunday Message

8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year C • 2nd March 2025 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 4

THE LANGUAGE OF THE HEART

LK 6:39-45



When Luke wrote this Gospel, the Church was a bit more organised as an institution, compared to the Church that Mark was writing to. Its members had discovered that Jesus' return was not as imminent as the earlier disciples thought.

This passage before us today suggests that Luke's community needed to be challenged again to live a life of prayer and maintain total commitment to the Lord Jesus. Prior to today's scene, we witness the call of the first disciples. Jesus is in the presence of a needy crowd and is stating the essential characteristics of being a follower of his. He is training or forming his disciples into a new way of living. They are not to be superior to the teacher but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his/her teacher. They are not to condemn, judge or find fault with one another. They are to treat one another with compassion and forgiveness. The Gospel underlines the importance of its leaders to go out to the world with a mission. The goodness in our hearts should be shown to the world around us, in the way we interact with people, in the way we bring people to the faith. Sometimes, these passages from Luke are referred to as The Sermon on the Plain. All those who listen are invited to show God's love to the world. ■

REFLECT

The beauty of today's Gospel is that it may inspire you to think of examples in your own life where you witnessed or experienced the 'good fruit' of a family member or a neighbour, through the example of their lives. As a priest working in a parish, I see countless examples of people devoting themselves in a selfless way to the care of others. In a local nursing home, approximately 75% of the staff are from a region in India called Kerala. Their faith forms a central part of their lives but the way they care for residents in the home, is an extension of their faith. They show care and respect, compassion and generosity. When the weekly mass is celebrated, every resident is afforded the opportunity to attend the celebration if they so wish. No task is too big for these extraordinary workers. When Jesus addresses the crowd today, he draws attention to the power of the human heart. The ability we all have to transform the world around us in showing God's love. 'A good man brings good things out of the good that's stored up in his heart,' says Jesus. The fruit we produce knows no boundary. ■

DO

Read Chapter 6 of Luke's Gospel and pay particular attention to how the Beatitudes are presented to the disciples.

SAY

Where there is shouting, let us practise listening;
Where there is confusion, let us inspire harmony;
Where there is exclusion, let us offer solidarity;
Where there is falsehood, let us bring truth.

(Pope Francis for World Communications Day, 2018)

LEARN

'There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call – one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.' (Eph 4: 4-6)