



Hosanna



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INTRODUCTION

The ultimate goal of our lives is the eternal heavenly kingdom. In this journey of worldly life, the ways and means are spread before us to reach the goal. Are we making efforts to live a life of faith and endurance? It is the quality of our life that enables to reach the goal. Let us ask the Lord to guide and help us to pass the narrow gates with endurance and enter into the heavenly kingdom.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. (*Ps 85:1-3*)

COLLECT

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. 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.

FIRST READING

Prophet Isaiah consoles the exiles who had returned from Babylon that God will once again populate Jerusalem by bring people from the farthest ends of the world.

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

66:18-21

The Lord says this, "I know their works and their thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Put, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands afar off, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the nations. And they shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the Lord, upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord. Just as the Israelites bring their cereal offerings in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord."

Responsorial Psalm (117)

R/ **Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.**

O praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

R/ **Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.**

For great is his steadfast love towards us; and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for ever. Praise the Lord!

R/ **Go out to the whole world; proclaim the Good News.**

SECOND READING

Our sufferings must not discourage us; they are not punishments from God, rather, we must take them as a part of our training.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? – “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.” It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed.

ALLELUIA (Eph1:17, 18)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus

Christ enlighten the eyes of our heart, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke 13:22-30

Jesus went on his way through towns and villages, teaching, and journeying towards Jerusalem. And some one said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, “Strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the householder has risen up and shut the door, you will begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us.’ He will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from; depart from me, all you workers of iniquity!’ There you will weep and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves thrust out. And men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: In the saving plan of God, all are included and every one is called to live in faith and bear witness to the Lord. Let us ask the Lord to

help us to be specific in our goals, so that we reach our eternal home without any hindrance.

1. We pray for our Pope Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the Bishops, Clergy and Religious that they may strive hard to lead the flock in the path of our Savior. For this we pray to the Lord.

2. We pray for our beloved Archbishop Bernard Moras, who celebrated yesterday his Feast – the Patron Saint Bernard, Let the Lord grant him strength and energy in leading the flock under his care peacefully and successfully. For this we pray to the Lord.

3. We pray for the heads of the country and each state and all those who work for the community. Let the love of the Lord enter into their hearts and enable them to be dedicated in the service of the humanity. For this we pray to the Lord.

4. We pray for all the families around the world. Let the Spirit enter the hearts of all to unite them in love and peace and encourage them to lead a wonderful that which was lead by the Holy Family – Jesus, Mary and Joseph. For this we pray to the Lord.

Celebrant: God our Loving Father, help us to realize the true value of human life, which your Son Jesus Christ lived and glorified through his Resurrection. Let our hearts and prayers rise above to you and sanctify them with your loving touch. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts

of unity and peace in your Church. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE V (Ordinary)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For you laid the foundations of the world and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; you formed man in your own image and set humanity 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, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart. (*Ps 103:13-15*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Alice in Wonderland is an 1865 novel written by the English Author Lewis Carroll as a fiction for children. It is a tale of a girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar anthropomorphic creatures. Once when Alice was wandering

aimlessly, she asked the Pussy Cat, “Pussy Cat, Pussy Cat! Which way should I go?” The Cat replied, “It all depends on where you want to go.” Alice replied, “I don’t care where go.” The Cat replied, “Then, it does not matter which way you take.”

In today’s Gospel, a man asked a question to Jesus for which the Jews already knew the answer; he asked, “Master, will only a few be saved?” The Jews believed that all Israel will have a place in the world to come. The book of Esdras, a second century work by the Jews, confirmed this exclusivistic view of the Jews. It said, “The Most High has made this world for many, but the world to come for the Jews (2 Esdr 8:1).” The enquirer in today’s gospel wanted to get an affirmative answer from Jesus. But Jesus did not answer his question directly for he came not to gratify man’s curiosity but to guide his conscience. Jesus did not come into this world to give statistics about the number of people who are going to be saved or to subscribe to the view that only the Jews would be saved. He pointed a way to all who wished to be saved. He said, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate.”

1) Goals Must Be Set: For the Christians the goal in life is life eternal. Heaven is our final home. Jesus came

into this world to prepare a way for us to heaven. All our activities upon this earth must be dictated and shaped by our final destiny – heaven. The way to heaven is narrow. Only people who make efforts and discipline themselves will be able to enter into heaven.

2) Efforts Must Be Made: With the Assistance of God we must make efforts to reach heaven. We must not only subscribe to the precepts of Jesus but also follow them strictly in our lives. The Lord once said, “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven (Mt.7:21).” Goals must be set, grace must be sought, efforts must be made and salvation will be assured. May the Lord Jesus give us the required graces to set our goals clearly and sanctify our efforts in reaching our common goal- heaven.

- Rev. Fr. John Rose

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