



# Hosanna



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WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Year C

**To be perseverant in prayer and to pray unceasingly!**

## INTRODUCTION

Today is World Mission Sunday. We gratefully acknowledge and celebrate the gift of faith. We are called to mediate the last command of Jesus to his disciples, "Go and preach the Good News to all nations ...". Reaching the Good news to all humanity is a mandate placed on the shoulders of every baptized Christian. We are called to take our mission seriously. Let us pray earnestly for all those directly involved in the mission work, let us also generously contribute for this noble task.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, be gracious and bless us, and let your face shed its light upon us, and have mercy. So will your ways be known upon earth and all nations learn your salvation. (Ps 66:2-3)

## COLLECT

O God, whose will it is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, look upon your abundant harvest and be pleased to send workers to gather it, that the Gospel may be preached to all creation and that your people, gathered by the word of life and sustained by

the power of the Sacraments, may advance in the path of salvation and love. 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

*A great message of hope is given to the Israelite peoples by the prophet Isaiah almost 600 years before the birth of Jesus. Isaiah says that all Israelites should arise and shine for their light has come. He prophesies that all peoples will walk in their Light. People from faraway lands. He speaks as though the Light has already come. They have to only lift up their eyes and see all the peoples gathering to share in the glory of the Lord. It is a prophecy of the advent of Jesus. Jesus is for all the peoples of the world.*

## A reading from the Book of Isaiah 60:1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of

your rising. Lift up your eyes round about, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far, and your daughters shall be carried in the arms. Then you shall see and be radiant, your heart shall thrill and rejoice; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

### Responsorial Psalm (96)

R/ **Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

O sing a new song to the Lord, sing to the Lord all the earth. O sing to the Lord, bless his name.

R/ **Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

Proclaim his help day by day, tell among the nations his glory and his wonders among all the peoples.

R/ **Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

Give the Lord, you families of peoples, give the Lord glory and power, give the Lord the glory of his name.

R/ **Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

Worship the Lord in his temple; O earth, tremble before him. Proclaim to the nations: "God is King."

R/ **Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples.**

### SECOND READING

*St. Paul says that the basic requirement for salvation is faith in Jesus as Lord who has risen from the dead. This faith has to be confessed to the world. Anyone who believes and*

*confesses this will be saved. Confession to the world is very important because people can believe only if the truth is proclaimed to them. The foot of the preacher is blessed because believing in his heart he makes an effort to make Jesus known. Paul believes that the message of salvation will be preached to all the world.*

### A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 10:9-18

If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips and so is saved. The Scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. For, "Every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach Good News!" But they have not all heeded the Gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

## ALLELUIA (Jn 3:16)

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should have eternal life.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 28:16-20**

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

## HOMILY

### NICENE CREED

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** God our loving Father, you so loved the world that you sent your only begotten son Jesus so that all who believe in him may be saved. Give us the grace, courage, strength and zeal to walk in the footstep of Jesus, the First Missionary.

**R/ LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

1. Bless our Pope Francis, Archbishop Bernard and all the missionaries that they may tirelessly work for the spread of the gospel and that all may come to know the Truth - that

you are a loving Father, and Jesus is our Saviour. Let us pray to the Lord...

2. Give strength and courage to all your children who are constantly exposed to the horror of religious fanaticism, torture and kidnap. Let us pray to the Lord...

3. Bring all the strayed sheep into your flock. May all those deprived of spiritual nourishment be fed by the Eucharist and by the living Word. Let us pray to the Lord...

4. Increase the zeal to all the missionaries and catechists who work in the remote corners of the world. That they may be guided by the life and mission of the apostles and the martyrs. Let us pray to the Lord...

**Celebrant:** God our Father, as we thank you for this precious gift of faith, we also ask you to give us the grace to bring this lamp burning till we meet you in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, O Lord, upon the face of your Christ, who handed himself over as a ransom for all, so that through him, from the rising of the sun to its setting, your name may be exalted among the nations and in every place a single offering may be presented to your majesty. 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

Teach all nations to keep whatever I have commanded you, says the Lord. And behold, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (*Mt 28.20*)

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we pray, O Lord, that through this help to eternal salvation true faith may ever increase. Through Christ our Lord.

### REFLECTION

Jesus through a parable helps us to understand the importance of perseverance in prayer. Scripture else-where tells us to pray unceasingly and at all times (1Thes. 5:16-18). Jesus presents widows as persons who are truly in need of God and others for their existence. In the Old Testament we see Yahweh as God of the poor (Ps. 14:4-6), orphans and widows and provides them in due

time their need. St. Paul in his letter to Philipians, 4:19-20 says: "...God will meet all your needs". Jesus in the temple praises the widows offering (Lk. 21:1-4) and reminds us how to trust in the providence of God. Here in today's Gospel once again he praises the widow of her consistency in seeking justice. The important lesson that we need to learn from today's Gospel is never to give up in seeking, knocking and in searching for truth, for justice, for peace and in building a new society. Above all in seeking, knocking and searching for God in prayer.

One of the most difficult aspects of prayer is persevering when it seems that God is not answering. Jesus instructed us to pray that the Father's kingdom would come and His will be done on earth as it is in heaven. And yet here we are, almost 2,000 years later, and that prayer, prayed millions of times by millions of Christians down through the centuries, is still not answered. On the other hand we need the faith to see the Kingdom of God here and now. However, in hope we wait for his second coming. Piety, persistence, patience has to accompany our prayer. Ultimately prayer is to seek the will of God and do it. Do we know how to pray? St. Teresa of Calcutta once said: Pray even when you could not pray, then pray that the Spirit within you may continue to pray"

- Rev. Fr. Michael Peter *Cpps*

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