



Hosanna



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Year C

Justice and Righteousness leads to holiness of life

INTRODUCTION

Justice and righteousness are interconnected. They are also synonymously linked with holiness of life. Human righteousness may not necessarily have to be always just. Human justice is not the same as God's justice. Blessed is the man whom God considers as just for he alone can be righteous one. Let us pray for all the judges in our courts, that they may bear witness to truth and seek the truth and set free the innocent. May the Lord grant them true wisdom and knowledge to discern and give right judgment following the Truth. Truth will set you Free!

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.
(Ps 104:3-4)

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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

Our God is a just God who always hears the cry of the oppressed. The prayer of the righteous never goes un-heard. The Lord will do the justice to the poor, to the orphans and to the widows. Let us listen to the Word of God from the Book of Sirach.

A reading from the Book of Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18a

The Lord is the judge and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the fatherless, nor the widow when she pours out her story. He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him, and does justice for the righteous, and executes judgement. And the Lord will not delay.

Responsorial Psalm (34)

R/ This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise always on my lips; in the Lord my soul shall make its boast. The humble shall hear and be glad.

R/ This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to destroy their remembrance from the earth. The just call and the Lord hears and rescues them in all their distress.

R/ This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

R/ This poor man called; the Lord heard him.

SECOND READING

St. Paul the prisoner, in chain, shares his experience of faith journey and his longing for the crown of glory that waits for him at the end of his earthly pilgrimage. He assures us the same wreath of glory for all those who will withstand the race and remain at all circumstance faithful to God and to Christ. With him let us also give glory to God even at the time of persecutions. Let us listen to the Word!

A reading from the Second Letter of St Paul to Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come, I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not

only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

At my first defence no one took my part; all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength to proclaim the word fully, that all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

ALLELUIA (Jn 1:14, 12)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who received him, he gave power to become children of God.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke 18:9-14

Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner.' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: God of Justice, the word is straying into an unjust terrain, send men and women filled with your love to rekindle in our hearts a sense of justice and righteousness that we may recreate a just world.

R/ LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

1. Give wisdom and deep insight to our Holy Father Francis, Archbishop Bernard and all the missionaries that they may construct a just society where peace and happiness reigns supreme. Let us pray to the Lord...

2. Lord we pray for our judges and advocates. Give them the deep sense of seeking the truth, to set free the innocent from the hands of liars and those who seek the innocent blood. May they work to construct a truly a just judiciary in our land. Let us pray to the Lord...

3. A family without humble hearts will fall apart! Lord bless our parents that they may be able to live a life of true humility and love and share it with their children. Grant wisdom to them so that they may be responsible parents and help their children to walk in the path of truth and righteousness. Let us pray to the Lord!

4. Let us pray that the good Lord be merciful and bring change of heart to those who shed the innocent

blood, who persecute others in the name of religion and faith. May every one learn to appreciate the goodness and beauty in the faith and religion of others and live harmoniously and work to build a society of sisterhood and brotherhood. Let us pray to the Lord

Celebrant: God our loving Father, enlightened by your living Word and nourished by the Sacrament may all of us return home justified. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, we pray, O Lord, on the offerings we make to your majesty, that whatever is done by us in your service may be directed above all to your glory. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE VI (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 in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal.

For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God. (*Ps 19:6*)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray, perfect in us what lies within them, that what we now celebrate in signs we may one day possess in truth. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

Self righteousness is very dangerous to one's inner life. A self righteous person fails to see the dark side of one-self. Humility is the great virtue also considered as mother of all virtues, while pride is considered as queen of all evil. Pride is one of the powerful instruments of Satan with which it attacks the human person and takes them away from God. Prov. 16:5: The Lord detests the proud man. Unfortunately the self righteous person is a proud person too. He is like a blind man whose conscience fails him.

God loves: "humble of heart; righteous person, who protects and defends life; who works for

peace and justice; who keeps the commandments of the Lord; who speaks the truth and who works for unity".

On the other hand, God detests: "a proud look; a lying tongue; hands that shed innocent blood; a heart that devises wicked plans; feet that are swift in running to evil; a false witness who speaks lies; and one who sows discord among brethren".

In today's Gospel Jesus makes it evident that the prayer of the humble man makes that person, though sinner, just in the eyes of God. It is the humility that paves way for contrition of heart and to repent for one's evil and return to God. God forgives the sins of the repentant. Even to acknowledge one's own sins, one needs to be humble. Without humility no sanctity said St. Philip Neri. Hence one can experience God's mercy and forgiveness through the humility of heart. Let us pray that the spirit of humility remains in us and to practice humility every day of our life. In this year of mercy, let us exercise forgiveness and be merciful.

- Rev. Fr. Michael Peter Cpps

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