



# Hosanna



Vol. 2

SUNDAY LITURGY

No. 45

20-08-2017

20TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Year A

## INTRODUCTION

Today, the gospel speaks about the virtue of perseverance. Perseverance in prayer with faith is the sign of deep faith. The Canaanite woman sets an example in this regard. In spite of Jesus' repeated negative answers to her plea, she kneels before Jesus and says "Sir, help me". This gesture of humility made her persevere in her asking and win favor.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. (*Ps 83:10-11*)

## COLLECT

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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 says that God's salvation and mercy is possible to foreigners if they keep up the commandments of Yahweh.*

## A reading from the Book of Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Thus says the Lord: "Keep justice, and do righteousness, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, and to be his servants, everyone who keeps the Sabbath, and does not profane it, and holds fast my covenant – these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

## Responsorial Psalm (66)

**R/ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

O God, be gracious and bless us and let your face shed its light upon us. So will your ways be known upon the earth and all nations learn your saving help.

**R/ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the nations be glad and exult, for you rule the world with justice. With fairness you rule the peoples, you guide the nations on earth.

**R/ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you. May God still give us his blessing till the ends of the earth revere him.

**R/ Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.**

## SECOND READING

*St. Paul speaks about his ministry to the non-Jews. He says that they are also called by God to obey His words and thus, all will be saved.*

**A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans 11:13-15, 29-32**

Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. In as much then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry in order to make my fellow Jews jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection means the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may receive mercy. For God has consigned all men to disobedience, that he may have mercy upon all.

**ALLELUIA Mt 4:23**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the Kingdom, and cured all kinds of sickness among the people.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 15:21-28**

Jesus withdrew to the district of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and cried, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David; my daughter is severely possessed by a demon." But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, "Send her away, for she is crying after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him saying, "Lord, help me."

And he answered, "It is not fair to take the children's bread and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered her, "O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire." And her daughter was healed instantly.

## HOMILY

### NICENE CREED

### PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** Dear friends in Christ Jesus, God's love and mercy is assured for everyone. To enjoy the mercy of the Lord, we must have the perseverance to ask God for our needs in faith. So let us now pray for our needs and the needs of the Church.

### LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

1. Lord, shower your choicest blessings upon our Pope Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the Bishops and other leaders of the church that they may instruct us in accordance with the spirit of the gospel. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

2. Lord, grant wisdom to all the leaders of the society that they may govern our nation in peace and joy

towards the welfare of the people. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

3. Lord, we pray for ourparents. Bless our parents with good health of mind and body that they may be the sources for the good upbringing of the children in the family. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

4. Lord,we pray for all the children of the society. We pray for those born with deformities. Give courage and strength to their parents that they may accept the child and give proper love. *Let us pray to the Lord.*

**Celebrant:** Lord, give us the grace to draw inspiration from the Canaanite women to persevere in our faith. Have mercy on us and lead us to receive what we ask in trust and confidence. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord.

### PREFACE VII (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 so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation we acclaim:

**All:** Holy, Holy, Holy Lord .....

### COMMUNION ANTIPHON

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption. (*Ps 129:7*)

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his coheirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

### REFLECTION

Jesus was living among the Pharisees and other important people of Jerusalem. He taught them to keep their hearts clean because what comes from the heart defiles a man and not what goes within. After teaching them, he left the place. He moved to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. Tyre and Sidon is the region of the gentiles. The Jews did not love to come to the region of the gentiles. Jesus' presence in the region of the gentiles was a kind of privacy from the crowd, oppositions and other adversaries. It was here that a gentile woman came to seek the healing and the help of Jesus.

The woman who came to Jesus. Jesus identified her deeper sorrow and her need. She was pleading mercy from Jesus. She identified Jesus as the son of David. The expression is Jewish. Probably, Mathew identifies or gives importance to the Jewish expression as he wrote the gospel to the Jews. The woman did not plead for herself. She pleaded for her daughter. She made an intercessory prayer for the suffering and healing of her daughter. Her prayer expressed her love for her daughter. Her love towards her daughter describes the responsibility of a good mother. She took part in the

suffering of her daughter. At the miseries of life, it is important to come to the right person who has answers and solutions for the questions. The woman came to Jesus. She believed that Jesus is the only person who can give healing to her daughter. Therefore, she pleaded mercy from Jesus.

When the woman pleaded the mercy of Jesus, Jesus did not utter a word. He kept silence. His silence was tempting the woman to lose hope in him. It was a hard situation for her to proceed or persevere in her pleading for mercy. She did not turn desperate or discouraged at the silence of Jesus. She loved her daughter much that she was ready to accept anything. What a love she expressed for her daughter! Her pleading and prayer was sincere. The disciples felt embarrassed at the presence of the woman pleading Jesus. They urged Jesus to get rid of her. They would have felt that the woman was causing an embarrassing moment. They were disturbed at the prayer of the woman. There could have been chances for the disciples to think that the woman is a gentile and not worthy to receive anything from Jesus. At least, some of the Apostles were very traditional and would have thought to get rid of the woman. They thought speaking or rendering a help to a gentile woman was not possible. It was sure that the woman followed

them for some time. She made her prayer continuously. She became a beggar of mercy of Jesus to manifest her sacred motherly love. It didn't matter if someone was disturbed or felt embarrassed. It was important for her to receive the mercy of Jesus.

The response of Jesus to the woman was unexpected. He said, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." Jesus made a point in saying that primarily his ministry was addressed to the house of Israel. At the same time, he had not rejected the mercy dispensed to the gentiles. Because, he was the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of human. The salvation is not restricted only to the house of Israel. He was the only savior who died for all and saved all including the pagans and the gentiles.

Jesus never pushed anyone out when he/she comes to him. He has given universal call to all the suffering and burdened. He prolonged to manifest the deep devotion and uncompromising love of the woman. Her faith and perseverance was great. She trusted Jesus as a final resort. She wouldn't leave the place until she received the mercy.

**- Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy Sebastian**

---

*Imprimatur*

**+ Bernard Moras**

**Archbishop of Bangalore**

---

*Published by:*

**Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission**

Paalanaa Bhavana

5, Nandidurg Road, Jayamahal Extension, Benson Town Post,  
Bangaluru 560046,