



Hosanna



Vol. 2

SUNDAY LITURGY

No. 47

03-09-2017

22ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Year A

Commitment of a Disciple Mt 16/21-27

INTRODUCTION

‘Deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow me’. These demands of Jesus make sense only in the light of love. A disciple is called to live a life like Jesus. If we do not possess love, our self-denial would be only superficial; our taking up the cross becomes hypocrisy. There are no short cuts to the Easter tomb. There is no other way to be more authentic disciples of Jesus except the way of the cross. Are we ready to take the step to follow Jesus despite our burdens and worries?

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you. (*Ps 85:3, 5*)

COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. 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 Jeramiah speaks about his own call as a prophet. Though he was insulted much, God’s word strengthened him to be a mouth piece for Him. In the first reading prophet Jeramiah is inviting us to turn to God even in the time of desperation and rejection.

A reading from the Book of Jeremiah 20:7-9

O Lord, thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived; thou art stronger than I, and thou hast prevailed. I have become a laughing stock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the Lord has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm (62)

**R/ For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water.

**R/ For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.

**R/ For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy.

**R/ For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

**R/ For you my soul is thirsting,
O Lord, my God.**

SECOND READING

The second reading instructs that we should not be shaped by the whims and fancies of this world, but by the renewed spirit of God. As long as we are with the spirit and work according to the mind of the spirit, we do what pleases God.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2

I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The Word of the Lord

ALLELUIA Eph 1:17-18

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 16:21-27

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him and began to rebuke him, saying "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done."

The Gospel of the Lord

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Dear friends in Christ Jesus, gathered here as one family, let us thank the Lord for His benevolent mercy. Let us place all our wants and needs to the Lord that he may bless us with His grace.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER

1. Lord, bless our Pope Francis and our Archbishop Bernard Moras. May they feel your protection in their pastoral ministry to carry on their ministry with love and service. *Let us pray.*

2. Lord, we pray for all the blind in the world. Help us to become their sight. Give us the grace to accept them as they are. *Let us pray.*

3. Lord, grant wisdom and knowledge to all the students that they may study well and have a bright future. *Let us pray.*

4. Lord, may all those who are suffering due to various sickness find consolation from your healing hand. Grant them speedy recovery. *Let us pray.*

Celebrant: Lord our benevolent Father, grant us the perseverance in faith that we may not lose the sight of you and be sunk in this worldly pleasures. Bless us to have firm faith in you that we may continue in this journey of life and reach you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessings of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE I (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, through Christ our Lord.

For through his Paschal Mystery, he accomplished the marvellous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own

possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you. *(Ps 30:20)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

REFLECTION

The disciples of Jesus understood Christ as the powerful and authoritative preacher. A huge folk followed to hear Jesus. He worked wonders. Many come to him for healing. He fed thousands of people. He even raised the dead and calmed the sea. For the first time in the gospel of Mathew, Jesus spoke about his death and sufferings. He said that he must go to Jerusalem. The words of Jesus confirmed that the cross and death is necessary. The death and resurrection of Jesus is the will of God. There can be many chances for the disciples to think about the resurrection of Lazarus. He was dead. In the same way, they thought that Jesus would come back to life to live with them. Even if they have not hoped for resurrection, at least they would have desired it. The resurrection was unconceivable

for the disciples because they had no examples and experience. Therefore, when Jesus said that son of man being raised again, the disciples did not understand what Jesus spoke about his resurrection. Even when Jesus was really risen after the death, they were slower to understand. They did not believe when Mary Magdalene witnessed the resurrection of Jesus.

Peter rebelled against the death of Jesus. Naturally, no man would want to die on the cross. Any man would rebel against the death and the cross. This is how man thinks. But God's thoughts are different. Peter rebelled not only on the death of Christ but the idea and will of God. He said, "This shall never happen to you". Peter tried to stop, Jesus accepting the cross and death. In a way, he wanted Jesus to be the political messiah, delivering leader as every Jew thought.

Peter exhibited his zeal for Jesus. It also explained how important to embrace the will of God. God's plan was salvation of the entire humanity by the death of Jesus. Jesus was a suffering saviour who suffers and dies, for the sins of human. Jesus was not happy about the ignorance of Peter. He said to him, "get behind me Satan." It was necessary for Jesus to be harsh with Peter at this time. Because the concern of Peter was a temptation for Jesus. At times, the care and love can be against the will of God. Especially, when it is evolved

and valued in the worldly standards. It is foolishness to think that cross and death of Christ was not necessary for the salvation of man. Jesus changed Peter and the topic of discussion because it was diverting the mind of Jesus. He charged Peter as Satan because he was under the influence of Satan to tempt Jesus. As St. Paul says, "In which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air? The spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." (Eph 2/2).

After rebuking Peter, Jesus taught an important demand from the disciples. If anyone desires to follow Christ, the desire meant the deliberate, free consent to follow Christ. It also meant deliberate choice and the ultimate way of life. Jesus gave three ways. They were; denial of self, carrying the cross and following Jesus. The requirements needed a lot of commitment and undivided desire and mind. Anyone who disregards this worldly life gains the eternal life. This is the basic principle to fulfill the three demands of Christ. A man's soul worth more than anything in this world. The life which is lost, is lost forever. It cannot be regained. Therefore, the disciples have to value the promise of eternal life more than anything or anyone in this world.

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Imprimatur

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Published by:

Archdiocesan Liturgical Commission

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