



# Hosanna



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Year A

## INTRODUCTION

Today, in the gospel, Christ presents the parable of two sons. Both the sons disappointed the father. But one son repented and did what the father asked him to do. Good intentions are insufficient and the promises don't count unless they are performed. Hence, the things that are assigned to every Christian must be fulfilled. Giving priority to the given task will reserve us for God's kingdom.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy. (*Dan 3:31,29,30,43,42*)

## COLLECT

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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 Ezekiel admonishes that a human can be saved when he or she leads a righteous life. Righteousness demands a sinless and a pure life. The good works that we credit to ourselves will encourage us to lead a righteous life.*

### A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel 18:25-28

The word of the Lord was addressed to me in this way, "You say, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it; for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die."

*The Word of the Lord*

## Responsorial Psalm (24)

**R/ Remember your mercy, Lord.**

Lord, make me know your ways.  
Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

**R/ Remember your mercy, Lord.**

Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth. In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

**R/ Remember your mercy, Lord.**

The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, He guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

**R/ Remember your mercy, Lord.**

**SECOND READING**

*The Christological hymn of St. Paul says that though Jesus was God, He totally emptied Himself and underwent a shameful death. Therefore, He was raised above all creation. Humbling oneself to become a servant, is a simple way to become precious in the sight of God.*

**A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians 2:1-11**

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God

has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The Word of the Lord*

**ALLELUIA (Jn 14:23)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

If anyone loves me he will keep my word and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**GOSPEL READING**

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Matthew 21:28-32**

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, "What do you think? A man had two sons; and he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today'. And he answered, 'I will not'; but afterwards he repented and went. And he went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir', but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the harlots believed him; and even when you saw it, you did not afterwards repent and believe him."

*The Gospel of the Lord*

**HOMILY**

**NICENE CREED**

**PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

**Celebrant:** Dear friends, as we have gathered here like apostles in the

upper room, let us ask the grace of God and the inspiration of His Spirit. Being empowered by the same Spirit, let us pray for all our needs and the needs of the church.

Resp : **LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER**

1. Lord, bless our Pope Francis, our Archbishop Bernard Moras, all the bishops and the leaders of the church. Being empowered by the Holy Spirit, they may bring Gospel to people of every race, language and culture. *Let us pray.*

2. Lord, grant to all the citizens the grace to put an end to violence, hatred and division and establish peace and justice in our land. *Let us pray.*

3. Lord, bless those who are suffering from depression and anxiety that they may find consolation and strength in your Holy Spirit. *Let us pray.*

4. Lord, grant us the grace to have personal renewal and build up this community in love and peace. *Let us pray.*

**Celebrant:** Lord, we, your children raised all our intentions to your Holy Altar. May they find favor in your sight. Bless us to enjoy your loving and never failing presence. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord.

**PREFACE IV (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 by his birth he brought renewal to humanity's fallen state, and by his suffering, cancelled out our sins; by his rising from the dead he has opened the way to eternal life, and by ascending to you, O Father, he has unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

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

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low. (*Ps 118:49-50*).

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**REFLECTION**

Today's parable speaks about the clear mind of the father and the necessary obligation of the children. In other words, the gospel speaks about the clear will of God and the obligation of the disciples. The father commands his sons to work. The command and obligation is demanded because the father is the owner and the sons are rightful heir. The children have the absolute necessity to see the work is carried forward. The command of the father is clear saying, "go and work." There is no other option in the mind of the father. He is not in a place to accept any excuses or other plans with regard to work. The father also gives the time to work. He says 'today'. It means with immediate effect. Today or this is the hour to respond to the call of the father and carry forward the work. It does not accommodate another time. Tomorrow may be too late. Tomorrow may be an excuse. Today is the best day for the harvest. Tomorrow may be too

late to glean the field. At the command of the father, the elder son refused to accept the wish of the father and work for him. He wanted to choose his own way and his own work. He established selfishness, when he refused to the command of the father. Later, he got converted and wanted to do the work of the father. A change within made him to go to the vineyard. The younger son did not wish to disobey the command of the father. He immediately accepted the command of the father. But he did not go. He became selfish to go to his work and not of his father. In both the sons, there is a change. The change is good as well as bad. Jesus compares this parable for the entry of a sinner into the kingdom. The parable is compared with the available society. The first son represent the people who do not worry about the religion and its values. They are concerned about the worldly affairs. They are selfish, self-centered and materialistic. They openly refuse the call of God. Later, they get converted to go for the work of the father. The younger son represent the Pharisees, scribes and Sadducees. They say yes to God. Later, they become self-centered and show no interest in the work of the father. Vineyard is the kingdom of God. Entry into the kingdom is the work of the father. The father gives the same command to both the sons. The response of the sons are different. The father did not change his tone in giving this command. The father did not respond or react when the first son said "I will not go." Or when the second son said "I will go." The

father respected both his sons. He respected their freedom to choose and their will. He did not force any of them. He allowed them to hold their responses. The father, neither appreciated nor condemned at the response of his sons. His wish is that both the sons do the work of the father. In fact, he would have been very happy if both the sons got converted and did the work of the father. Jesus' claim is that there are two groups existing in the community of Israel. They are, the religionist and the ordinary sinners, publicans and so on. The religionist are always worried about the religion, norms to be followed, and the rituals conducted. They really do not bother about the work of God. On the contrary, there are people who are sinners, publican, and prostitutes, materialistic, selfish and egoistic. They are far from religion. They do not worry about the future. They live the present as they wish. Jesus shocks the audience in saying; St. John came, the religionist did not accept him but the sinners, publicans and prostitutes accepted him. Therefore, those who accepted John, got converted and did the work of God. But the other group, they did not accept John and failed to do the work of God. Thus, he concluded that those who get converted and do the work of the father will inherit the kingdom of God. He never snatches anyone's opportunity. At the same time, he respects the freedom and will to choose or reject.

- Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy Sebastian

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