



# Hosanna



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Year B

## INTRODUCTION

Dear brethren, the solid foundation of a Christian life is love of God and love of neighbor. As our Lord says, “there is no other commandment greater than these.” Observing these commandments we attain real joy and happiness in our life. Realizing this truth let us participate lovingly in this Eucharistic celebration.

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;  
be not far from me! Make haste and  
come to my help, O Lord, my strong  
salvation!  
*(Ps 37:22-23)*

## COLLECT

Almighty and merciful God, by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised. 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

*In today's 1st reading, Moses promises the Israelites the temporal rewards if they remained loyal to their God who was the one and the only God and would prove their loyalty by observing his commandments.*

## A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses summoned all Israel and said to them, “that you may fear the Lord your God, you and your son and your son’s son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life; and that your days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and be careful to do them; that it may go well with you, and that you may multiply greatly, as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words which I commanded you this day shall be upon your heart.”

*The Word of the Lord*

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 17: 2-4, 47 & 51a

**Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.**

I love you, Lord, my strength, my rock, my fortress, my saviour. My God is the rock where I take refuge; my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold. The Lord is worthy of all praise: when I call I am saved from my foes.

**Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.**

Long life to the Lord, my rock!  
Praised be the God who saves me. He has given great victories to his King and shown his love for his anointed.

**Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.**

## SECOND READING

*In today's 2nd reading, the author of Hebrews continues to show the superiority of Jesus over the high priests of the Old Testament. Jesus the high priest has interceded once for all for the sins of his people.*

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 7:23-28**

The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office; but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues for ever. Consequently he is able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

For it was fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, blameless, unstained, separated from sinners, exalted above the heavens. He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did this once for all when he offered up himself. Indeed, the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect for ever.

*The Word of the Lord*

**ALLELUIA (Mt 11:28)**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life. You have the message of eternal life.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

## GOSPEL READING

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark 12:28-34**

One of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that Jesus answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one; and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.'" And the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that he is one, and there is no other but he; and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbour as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to ask him any question.

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## HOMILY

## NICENE CREED

## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

**Celebrant:** Let us pray to God our Father who loved us to the point of giving his Son Jesus to save us.

**Response: LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.**

1. Let us pray for our Holy Father Francis, our Archbishop Peter, Priests and Religious that they may always observe God's law and dedicate their whole life to the salvation of the people entrusted to their care. *Our response*

2. Let us pray for all the Public authorities of the world that they may understand the real value of God's commandment of Love and that they may love and treat all the people equally without any discrimination.

*Our response*

3. Let us pray for the abandoned people that they may realize that God loves them, even when everyone around seems to have forgotten them.

*Our response*

4. Let us pray for our Parish community and for each one of us, that discovering God's love, we may discover the joy of loving him by fulfilling his commandments. *Our response*

**Celebrant:** Father, we thank you for the commandment of love. Help us to find our happiness in genuine love and may we strive to love you sincerely through our brothers and sisters. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord, become for you a pure oblation, and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy. Through Christ our Lord.

## PREFACE II (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 out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal.

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:

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord. *(Ps 15:11)*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of your power, O Lord, increase in us, we pray, so that, renewed by these heavenly Sacraments, we may be prepared by your gift for receiving what they promise. Through Christ our Lord.

## REFLECTION

A Christian life is a gift of God because we are chosen by God. Some Christians consider their Christian life a burden and they say, it is such a difficult thing! They seem to envy non-Christians as "care-free people", since their conscience does not seem to trouble them too much. Sometimes we ourselves have reasoned the following: if the 10 commandments, or at least some of them, were not there, life would be easier and we would save ourselves a lot of remorse. This way of reaction shows that we have not grasped the true meaning of Christian life, that we have not yet discovered the genuine joy which only a true Christian life can bring. This reaction also amounts to saying, "How lucky the person who does not love". But would anyone among us consider a family as a happy family, where there is no love?

The readings of today give us the message guiding us to the true joy

of living a Christian life. God gave us the commandments out of love and he gave them to help us preserve genuine love in our midst. When we fulfill God's commandments we gain genuine happiness within our heart and by violating them we are sure to take the road to unhappiness. In today's 1st reading we hear through Moses that in exchange for their faithful keeping of his commandments, *God promises three important benefits* to the people of Israel: (a) a long life on earth (b) a numerous family (c) all sorts of material blessings during life. These benefits are applicable today, even to us when we observe God's Law.

By the time Jesus came into the world, the Jewish religious leaders had rendered Moses' Law impossible to fulfill because to God's 10 commandments they had added more than 600 of their own. The added laws were given more prominence than God's 10 commandments. So in the Gospel, Jesus responds positively with two laws of love, to the question asked regarding which is the first of all the commandments. For the 1st commandment- Love of God Jesus quotes from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and for the 2nd commandment- Love of neighbour he quotes from Leviticus 19:18. Jesus puts both the commandments at the same level, attaching the same importance to both, thus showing that love of neighbor is nothing but the expression of love of God. He also affirms this new Law of

love at the close of his life by saying, "I give you a new commandment: love one another; just as I have loved you, you also must love one another" (Jn 13:34).

There are three reasons as to why we should our neighbor: (1) because God loves them and they are his children as much as we are; (2) because Jesus died for them all, just as he died to save us; (3) because God wants them all in heaven forever with him, just as he wants us there. Loving one's own neighbor consist in not keeping in our heart grudges, envy or hatred against anyone, forgiving the offences, hastening to the rescue of anyone in need- be the need- material or spiritual just like Jesus taught us in the parable of the Good Samaritan and sometimes sacrificing our rituals or devotions for the love of neighbor as Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6- "I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice". So if God loves everyone, if Jesus died to ransom them all, if God has a place ready in heaven also for them, as he has one for me, who am I to exclude a single person of my love?

-- Rev. Fr. Benedict Rajesh. A

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