



USCCaruso  
Catholic Center

## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Family Prayer Service

**Presider:** In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

Let us acknowledge the times which we have not been faithful to God.

Penitential Rite A

**All:** I confess to almighty God  
and to you, my brothers and sisters,  
that I have greatly sinned,  
in my thoughts and in my words,  
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,  
(striking your breast, say:)  
through my fault, through my fault,  
through my most grievous fault;  
(Then continue with:)  
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,  
all the Angels and Saints,  
and you, my brothers and sisters,  
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

**Opening Prayer:**

**Presider:** Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. 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.

**All: Amen**

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet of Isaiah:**

*Isaiah 55:1-3*

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

The Word of the Lord

## **Responsorial Psalm**

*Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 (see 16)*

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness. The LORD is good to all and compassionate toward all his works.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The LORD is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

## **A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans:**

*Romans 8:35, 37-39*

Brothers and sisters:

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

*Matthew 4:4b*

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

*Matthew 14:13-21*

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over — twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord

## Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

### Homi-flection for the Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The last few weeks have been very challenging for me. I have been dealing with the death of a very dear friend of mine. All the emotion of death and goodbye have been at the forefront of my thoughts. When I read Romans 8:35 "What will separate us from the love of Christ?" I think about the recent events that have occurred.

2020 has been one big stress filled time for all of us. That is why it is so important for me/us to reflect on the second reading. I have experienced anguish and distress certainly. The other things St. Paul mentions in verse thirty-six, I can honestly say, I have not experienced in my life. When St. Paul goes on to say, "No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us." Romans 8:37.

Remember Paul, remember the love of Christ. It is that love that has guided me to where I am today. Anguish and distress can cloud our thinking, our judgement. The love of Christ can cut through the cloudiness and bring clarity to our life of anguish and distress. How? Remember and enter into the relationship of Christ and His church.

I need to remember him who loves me, Christ. Whatever comes at me in my life whether it is visible or invisible, the powers or principalities, which by the way are angels. Christ is with me. The past often haunts us, and the future stresses us out.

I think about the first reading from the prophet Isaiah and his description of what God offers us for free. What are we seeking in our lives? Are we thirsty? Hungry? What in us needs to be satisfied? Maybe we seek healing. Can we do that by ourselves? Can I? No! Where do I turn?

There is a banquet that we can all participate in. The Sacrifice of the Most Holy Mass. The banquet that is heaven here on earth. "Come to me heedfully listen, that you may have life." Isaiah 55:3 Life is precious, life can be fragile. I can mimic life and feel like I am walking on a razor's edge. I would feel that way if I was living my life only for myself and doing it alone. But I am not! No, in all these things we conquer. I am never alone. I am surrounded by family and friends. I am to live a life of abundance. From Isaiah to Matthew I can be satisfied, my thirst can be quenched. My grief can be lessened. I need to remember that it is Christ that will satisfy me just like the crowd of 5000 with five loaves of bread and two fish.

Jesus withdrew upon hearing of the death of his cousin John the Baptist. I have withdrawn for the past couple of weeks upon the death of my friend/brother Michael Joseph Guzman. Jesus was by himself. I was not, I had family and friends with me. Jesus retreated to be with his Father in heaven. I seek the Father's consolation as well knowing that you are with me, and I with you. We pray for each other today tomorrow and always. Knowing during this challenging time in my life that most Holy Trinity will never be separated from me. The life that I seek is the life in which I will continue to try and live abundantly. I look forward to time when we can see each other at the banquet of the Lord. Marana Tha, come Lord Jesus.

**Nicene Creed:**

**ALL:** I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

(bow)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

(raise from bow)

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen

**Presider:** We bring our prayers to God, whose love for us has no end.

**Intercessions:**

1. For our Church and parish community, that we may share joyfully with the poor, the hungry, and the forgotten all that God has given us: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
2. For bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers, that they may teach us that “the Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works.”: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
3. For the leaders of governments and nations, that they may work to insure the blessings of food, water, and health care for every member of the human family: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
4. For those who grow, produce, and prepare our food, that they may see their work as a sacred trust from God, the giver of all good things: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
5. For those on the margins of society, for cultural and ethnic minorities in our community, for those that are physically and mentally challenged, that they may find welcome and purpose among us :*(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.
6. For those who have died in the peace of Christ that they may take their place in the banquet of heaven: *(Pause for silent prayer)*.  
**All:** Lord, hear us.

**Presider:** We humbly bring our intercessions to you O Lord, trusting in You to answer them on your time not on our time.

**Our Father:**

**Presider:** At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**All:**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

Amen

**Sign of Peace:**

**Presider:** Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen

**Presider:**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**All:**

And with your spirit.

**Presider:**

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

(At this time please offer a moment of silence before the Spiritual Communion is said.)

**Spiritual Communion:**

**All:** I wish my Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervor of the saints.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Presider:** Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen