



USCCaruso
Catholic Center

Sixth Sunday of 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:

O God, who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you. 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 Leviticus:

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

“The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1

Brothers and sisters,

whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia

Luke 7:16

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Mark:

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:
by Deacon Paul Pesqueira

The readings this week do not give you a warm and fuzzy feeling inside. Ironically, this year the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary time falls on Valentine's Day and World Marriage Day. The first reading from Leviticus is talking about leprosy, and the Gospel also speaks of leprosy. Where is the love?

Leprosy still exists today but is not nearly as deadly as it was in biblical times. The Levitical reading explains what someone should do if they have contracted this disease. The ancient protocol seems rather strict. We have been living through our own pandemic, and we can identify with the reading from Leviticus. Why? Because there is protocol on how we live our lives today. Some people listen and follow protocol, and some do not. People become fearful of people, diseases, or situations when they do not understand them. We receive information rapidly today, but this was not the case during Old Testament times. Yet we still allow fear to enter our lives even though we have all the information at our fingertips! We often make decisions based on emotion. Can we take a moment to internalize and think about what is causing our fear? The great unknown is often our enemy.

Trying to become more aware of God in my life is a daily challenge. That is why the second reading, although brief, is quite important. Turning toward Christ and His Church, recognizing whatever we are doing we are doing for the "Glory of God." When St. Paul talks about eating and drinking, he says "do that for the Glory of God." When we come into contact with others it should not matter if they have a different ethnicity or religion, encounter them with the "Glory of God in mind. Do we? St. Paul asks the Corinthians to become imitators of himself "as I am of Christ."

I have thought and prayed about the statement "as I am of Christ" this week. Am I? Can I make that statement? Every day I pray; but am I of Christ? I do my very best to love. That is the connection for me, it is Love! To care for others, even people that I do not know I try my best to have my actions guided by Christ's love. Dealing with many different situations throughout the day is taxing at times. That is why recognizing the Love of Christ in my actions and words is key component in my ministry. If we can continue to be imitators of Christ and do all things with great love, we are fulfilling St. Paul's command of being imitators of Christ. The answer to all the questions this week is love. The answer is always Christ's Love. Seeking out the love of Christ in the sacraments is what will keep us from going down that rabbit hole of fear.

At first glance, the readings this week may seem harsh. However, the readings show us that today we are connected to biblical history. There will always be challenges, catastrophes, pandemics, wars, and disagreement. What we need to be aware of, is that the Love of Christ is right there with us as well. We need to appreciate the love of our spouses, families, significant others and ask, "am I as of Christ?" This day is a celebration of love - the love of spouses on World Marriage Day and of course Valentine's Day the day for all who love. Today is also the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary time a day in which we celebrate the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ who is the love of all which is beyond our understanding. What a beautiful Sunday it is to celebrate World Marriage Day, Valentine's Day and Christ. 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: Let us offer our prayers to God, the Giver of life, in the name of Jesus, the Healer and Restorer of life

Intercessions:

That thanksgiving and gratitude to God may be the center of our parish's life together:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That our bishops, priests, deacons, campus ministers, and teachers may be imitators of Christ, the servant of God:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That those considered lepers by society may be welcomed and honored in our midst:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That physicians, medical personal, and therapists may care for their patients with the compassion of Jesus:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That the sick and the dying may be touched by the healing presence of Christ:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

That the faithful who have died may be reborn in the life of the Risen Christ:

(Pause for silent prayer).

All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Hear our prayers, O God, for all of the family of humankind. Mend our broken relationships with one another; heal us of the leprosy of selfishness and injustice; make us clean and whole in your love and compassion. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, the healing Christ.

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:

Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen