



USC Caruso
Catholic Center

Twenty Third 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:

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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 Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 33:7-9

Thus says the LORD:

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me. If I tell the wicked, “O wicked one, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death. But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

The Word of the Lord

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; let us acclaim the rock of our salvation. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the LORD who made us. For he is our God, and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice: "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works."

R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

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

Romans 13:8-10

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

The Word of the Lord

Alleluia:

2 Corinthians 5:19

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to Matthew:

Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that ‘every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Reflection/Family Discussion on the readings and Gospel:

Homi-flection for the Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Three weeks ago, in the Gospel Jesus asks, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter responds, "You are the son of the living God." God was with Peter. Last Sunday Jesus tell Peter to "Get behind me Satan." The reason for this harsh response was that Peter was thinking like a human being. Was God with Peter? In this week's gospel Jesus tells us "Where two or more are gathered in my name know that I am in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20.

God is with us always in every situation. The key is recognizing that reality. Being able to see God in the joy and happy times is easy, but often overlooked. When there is turmoil and pain often the statement "Why, God? Why did this happen?" Remembering Jesus' words where two or more are gathered in my name... Being people of faith does not protect us from bad things happening to us. Being people of faith gives us a foundation when problems occur in our lives, we have our faith to fall back on.

Participating in the life of Christ and his Church which Peter was put in charge of, even though Jesus reprimanded him for thinking like man does. It is living a life centered in Jesus. Because these past four months we were not able to receive the Eucharist, go to reconciliation, baptize or celebrate a wedding. We recognize how much we need Jesus and His Church. I know I was so happy, actually overwhelmed with emotion presiding at weddings and baptisms this past month.

Jesus has been with us all this time during the Stay at Home Order. Now that we are moving slowly back to in-person participation at church, are we saying, finally? I hope not. I hope that we can look and see God in all things. Yes, God is with us in a more profound way in the Eucharist. To receive Christ in the Eucharist is the ultimate experience for us who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist.

Yet God is in our midst where two or more are gathered in His name. Let us not forget that. That is why prayer is so important. It anchors us to Christ and His Church, our Church. The Church is for us. When the Church doors were locked for the past four months God was with us. God is with us always, everyday and every way. Moving through the storms of our lives can cloud our vision, and maybe too much of a good time can do that as well.

What I do know is that I am so thankful for the life I have been given. Even with all the recent pain. I am working on elevating myself above the storm to look at my life from a different perspective. This will take some time and hard work. What I do recognize is that where two or more are gathered His name, Jesus will be in their midst. In the midst of my family, in the midst of my Our Savior Parish USC Caruso Catholic Center family. What a blessing that is. 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 lift up hearts and voices to the Lord in prayer.

Intercessions:

1. That our Church and parish community may seek the love of God in all things:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

2. That our bishops, priests, deacons, and ministers may teach the gospel of forgiveness with conviction and compassion:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

3. That the legislatures and courts of the world's governments may seek equality, justice, and peace for all peoples:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

4. That the Jesus of love and compassion may be present in the midst of families and households, especially those experiencing times of difficulty and pain:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

5. That the sick, suffering, abused, poor, and broken, the grieving and despondent, may find, among us, reconciling hope and healing:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

6. That our deceased relatives and friends may be raised by God for the new life of the risen Christ:
(Pause for silent prayer).
All: Lord, hear us.

Presider:

Oh Lord, hear our prayers for the human family. Give us eyes to see your face in the midst of suffering and anguish; give us ears to hear your voice in the midst of ridicule and confusion; give us hearts that sense your presence in times of turmoil and despair.

In Jesus name we pray.

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: Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen