

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people. Praise God who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

A reading from the holy

Gospel according to Matthew Mt 10: 37-42

Jesus instructed the Twelve as follows:

‘Anyone who prefers father or mother to me is not worthy of me. Anyone who prefers son or daughter to me is not worthy of me.

Anyone who does not take his cross and follow in my footsteps is not worthy of me.

Anyone who finds his life will lose it; anyone who loses his life for my sake will find it.

‘Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me; and those who welcome me welcome the one who sent me.

‘Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will have a prophet’s reward; and anyone who welcomes a holy man because he is a holy man will have a holy man’s reward.

‘If anyone gives so much as a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is a disciple, then I tell you solemnly, he will most certainly not lose his reward.’

*The Gospel of the Lord*

## PRAYER OVER THE

### OFFERINGS

O God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all within me, his holy name.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen



## REFLECTION

‘The gospel for today can be a difficult one to hear. It calls us to place our discipleship before our loyalty to family and even before our own life. It is important to place this passage in the broader context of not only the chapter in which it sits, but also within the gospel as a whole.

Today’s passage appears at the conclusion of Chapter 10 in the Gospel of Matthew. The entire chapter deals with the commissioning and sending out of the disciples to ‘proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy and drive out demons.’ (Mt 10:8) The previous chapter concludes with the words, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’ (Mt 9:37-38) Chapter 10 is a response to this call. Jesus sends the disciples to ‘work the harvest’ through proclamation, healing and exorcism.

At the end of the chapter, having spelt out all the difficulties a disciple must face, Jesus assures them that even the smallest act of welcoming the disciple will be rewarded.

It’s also important to understand that the Jewish audience of the Gospel of Matthew found themselves under increasing persecution and there was often division within families between those holding to orthodox Jewish beliefs and those following the new Christian way. For some early Christians, there was the very real choice to be made between following their faith and remaining loyal to family.

The Gospel of Matthew repeatedly affirms Jesus as the promised Jewish messiah; as the fulfilment of Jewish prophecy. For early followers of the Christian way, this difficult message about being a follower was in the context of an affirmation that the message of Jesus was deeply grounded in their Jewish faith.

# ST PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH



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THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

28TH JUNE 2020

## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

All peoples, clap your hands.  
Cry to God with shouts of joy!

## COLLECT

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.

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

A reading from the book of Kings

2 Kgs 4:8-11. 14-16

One day as Elisha was on his way to Shunem, a woman of rank who lived there pressed him to stay and eat there. After this he always broke his journey for a meal when he passed that way. She said to her husband, ‘Look, I am sure the man who is constantly passing our way must be a holy man of God. Let us build him a small room on the roof, and put him a bed in it, and a table and chair and lamp; whenever he comes to us he can rest there.’

One day when he came, he retired to the upper room and lay down. ‘What can be done for her?’ he asked. Gehazi (his servant) answered, ‘Well, she has no son and her husband is old.’ Elisha said, ‘Call her.’ The servant called her and she stood at the door. ‘This time next year,’ Elisha said ‘you will hold a son in your arms.’

*The word of the Lord*

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.**

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord; through all ages my mouth will proclaim your truth. Of this I am sure, that your love lasts for ever, that your truth is firmly established as the heavens. (R.)
2. Happy the people who acclaim such a king, who walk, O Lord, in the light of your face, who find their joy every day in your name, who make your justice the source of their bliss. (R.)
3. For it is you, O Lord, who are the glory of their strength; it is by your favour that our might is exalted: for our ruler is in the keeping of the Lord; our king in the keeping of the Holy One of Israel (R.)

## SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 6: 3-4 8-11

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father’s glory, we too might live a new life.

But we believe that having died with Christ we shall return to life with him: Christ, as we know, having been raised from the dead will never die again. Death has no power over him any more. When he died, he died, once for all, to sin, so his life now is life with God; and in that way, you too must consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus.

*The word of the Lord*