

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom .

Alleluia!

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy

Gospel according to Matthew Mt 11: 25-30

Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

'Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

The Gospel of the Lord

PRAYER OVER THE

OFFERINGS

May this oblation dedicated to your name purify us, O Lord, and day by day bring our conduct closer to the life of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, having been replenished by such great gifts, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

REFLECTION

Before I said my first Mass an old priest gave me two great pieces of advice.

'You know when the congregation is filled with optimists. After a long series of announcements at the end of Mass and then you say, "and finally..." people take out their car keys!'

The second was, 'Never underestimate the burdens people bring with them into the church. Often we have little idea of the difficulties and pain our parishioners will be carrying.'

I have no idea what you have brought with you to Mass today. I can only imagine the anxiety and burden some of you are carrying. Whatever it is, Jesus invites you to let go of it, if only for a while, and be at peace.

Now all this 'come and rest a while' talk can be very pious and not sound all that in touch with reality.

Today's Gospel, however, came from the community of the Apostle Matthew and was written in Jerusalem about 45 years after Jesus' death. We know that this community experienced intense suffering and heavy burdens.

They had been expelled from the Synagogue and were being martyred for their faith in Jesus Christ.

No wonder they held so strongly to the words, 'Come to me all you who are weary and heavy burdened and I will give you rest.' And they found consolation in Jesus' example, 'take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble in heart.'

Since the first century, however, Christianity has been guilty of trying to spiritually wallpaper over some tough realities rather than preaching that God is our companion in facing up to whatever our reality is and dealing with it.

Our faith is not about praying away our problems or fears and wishing it were otherwise. Our faith means we have experienced the love of God in Jesus Christ so that we never carry our burdens alone. God is our companion and guide and this parish Community, as with every Christian community, is called to be the sort of place where we carry each other's burdens and rest with each other awhile.

What we celebrate here each Sunday is that God will have the last word, a just, joyous, loving and peaceful word, in this world and when we enter our final rest.

Jesus didn't come to us as a divine magician, waving a wand over our problems to wipe away all our tears. Rather, he accompanies us so he can show us that the gift of peace and a release from our life's burdens is often found in having the perspective for exercising the gift of right judgment. Making the best possible choices leads to the alleviation of our pain and difficulties.

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Parish Priest: Fr Raining Creta Assistant Priest: Fr Marcus Hazelman		
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A		4TH JULY 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

COLLECT

O God, who in the abasement of your Son have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness.

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 prophet Zechariah

Zec 9:9-10

The Lord says this:

'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**I will praise your name for ever,
my king and my God.**

1. I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. (R.)

2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)

3. All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. (R.)

4. The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 8: 9 11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you.

So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

The word of the Lord