

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;  
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.  
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all  
the day long.

**GLORIA**

**Glorify to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.**

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful  
to unite in a single purpose,  
grant your people to love what you command  
and to desire what you promise,  
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,  
our hearts may be fixed on that place  
where true gladness is found.  
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.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Isaiah 66:18-21

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The Lord says this: I am coming to gather  
the nations of every language. They shall  
come to witness my glory. I will give them  
a sign and send some of their survivors to  
the nations: to Tarshish, Put, Lud, Moshech,  
Rosh, Tubal, and Javan, to the distant islands  
that have never heard of me or seen my  
glory. They will proclaim my glory to the  
nations. As an offering to the Lord they  
will bring all your brothers, on horses, in  
chariots, in litters, on mules, on dromedaries,  
from all the nations to my holy mountain  
in Jerusalem, says the Lord, like Israelites  
bringing oblations in clean vessels to the  
Temple of the Lord. And of some of them I  
will make priests and Levites, says the Lord.  
The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM**

Psalm 116

Response:

**Go out to the whole world;  
proclaim the Good News.**  
or  
**Alleluia!**

1. O praise the Lord, all you nations,  
acclaim him all you peoples! (R.)

2. Strong is his love for us;  
he is faithful for ever. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Hebrews 12:5-7.11-13

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Have you forgotten that encouraging text in  
which you are addressed as sons? My son,  
when the Lord corrects you, do not treat it  
lightly; but do not get discouraged when he  
reprimands you. For the Lord trains the ones  
that he loves and he punishes all those that  
he acknowledges as his sons. Suffering is  
part of your training; God is treating you as  
his sons. Has there ever been any son whose  
father did not train him? Of course, any  
punishment is most painful at the time, and  
far from pleasant; but later, in those on whom  
it has been used, it bears fruit in peace and  
goodness. So hold up your limp arms and  
steady your trembling knees and smooth out  
the path you tread; then the injured limb will  
not be wrenched, it will grow strong again.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.**  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Luke 13:22-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Luke.

Through towns and villages Jesus went  
teaching, making his way to Jerusalem.  
Someone said to him, "Sir, will there be only  
a few saved?" He said to them, "Try your  
best to enter by the narrow door, because I  
tell you, many will try to enter and will not  
succeed.

"Once the master of the house has got up  
and locked the door, you may find yourself  
knocking on the door, saying, 'Lord, open to  
us' but he will answer, 'I do not know where  
you come from.' Then you will find yourself  
saying, 'We once ate and drank in your  
company; you taught in our streets' but he  
will reply, 'I do not know where you come  
from. Away from me, all you wicked men!'

"Then there will be weeping and grinding  
of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac  
and Jacob and all the prophets in the  
kingdom of God, and yourselves turned  
outside. And men from east and west, from  
north and south, will come to take their  
places at the feast in the kingdom of God.

"Yes, there are those now last who will be  
first, and those now first who will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

**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,**

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

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

**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.**

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by  
adoption  
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,  
bestow graciously on us, we pray,  
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**The earth is replete with the fruits of your  
work, O Lord;  
you bring forth bread from the earth  
and wine to cheer the heart.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,  
the healing work of your mercy  
and graciously perfect and sustain us,  
so that in all things we may please you.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



From a cultural point of view, this was one of the burning questions of Jesus' time: "Will only a few be saved?" The Jews debated it quite often, and on a dusty road to Jerusalem, Jesus is asked the question by a member of the public.

As is usual with Jesus, he doesn't answer the question directly and instead uses this image of the narrow door. Some will try to enter heaven using the door and they will succeed and others will fail and be left standing outside. Another image is given of a man in a house who gets up at night to lock his door. Despite the pleading from the people outside the house, he does not let them in. They will continue to bang on the door and plead with him saying, "we ate and drank with you and you taught in our streets", but the owner will reply, "I don't know you or where you come from."

So the people will be left standing outside the door while the feast at the heavenly table takes place. They will see all of the Jewish ancestors, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and all the prophets, dining in the Kingdom of God. Then to further rub salt into their wounds, the door will be opened even wider and foreigners from the four corners of the world will be allowed in, whilst all this time, they will be left waiting outside.

At this point of the Gospel, the initial question is finally being addressed: "Will only a few be saved?" The answer of course is that the feast is open to everyone but those who think they are entitled to be there may find no place for them. ■

## REFLECT

There are times that the daily sermons of Pope Francis pass us by. But one of the tasks that I would encourage people to undertake is to actively research his short homilies from his chapel in the Vatican residence at the Domus Sanctae Marthae. On November 7, 2017, Pope Francis reflected on salvation and had this to say:

"If the gratuitousness of God's invitation isn't understood, nothing is understood. God's initiative is always free. But what must you pay to go to this banquet? The entry ticket is to be sick, to be poor, to be a sinner. These things allow you to enter, this is the entry ticket: to be needy in both body and soul. It's for those in need of care, healing, in need of love."

In reflecting on this short sermon, we can perhaps come to an appreciation of what is happening at the end of Luke's Gospel today. They gather from the four corners of the world to enter the heavenly banquet and they are greeted with love and care. The door to heaven is indeed narrow but God's initiative to invite and to love is always free. ■

## SAY

Lord, thank you for the unique gifts of every child as they begin a new school year. Fill each student with fresh enthusiasm and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Bless their teachers with wisdom and understanding. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

## LEARN

"It is not that we keep His commandments first and then he loves but that He loves and then we keep his commandments. This is grace revealed to the humble and hidden from the crowd." (St Augustine)

## DO

Take a moment to read today's Gospel alongside the first reading from Isaiah. The call to be part of God's holy people includes everyone. Reflect and pray about this theme throughout the week ahead.

