

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!
Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

GLORIA

Glory 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

Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you
right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray,
that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.
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 Wisdom 11:22-12:2

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

In your sight, Lord, the whole world is like
a grain of dust that tips the scales,
like a drop of morning dew falling on the
ground.
Yet you are merciful to all, because you can
do all things
and overlook men's sins so that they can
repent.
Yes, you love all that exists, you hold nothing
of what you have made in abhorrence,
for had you hated anything, you would not
have formed it.
And how, had you not willed it, could a thing
persist,
how be conserved if not called forth by you?
You spare all things because all things are
yours, Lord, lover of life,
you whose imperishable spirit is in all.
Little by little, therefore, you correct those
who offend,
you admonish and remind them of how they
have sinned,
so that they may abstain from evil and trust
in you, Lord.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 144

Response:

**I will bless your name for ever,
O God my King.**

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 2 Thessalonians 1:11-22

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to
the Thessalonians.

We pray continually that our God will make
you worthy of his call, and by his power fulfil
all your desires for goodness and complete
all that you have been doing through faith;
because in this way the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ will be glorified in you and you
in him, by the grace of our God and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

To turn now, brothers, to the coming of
our Lord Jesus Christ and how we shall
all be gathered round him: please do not
get excited too soon or alarmed by any
prediction or rumour or any letter claiming to
come from us, implying that the Day of the
Lord has already arrived.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
**Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!**
**Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens!**
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 19:1-10

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through
the town when a man whose name was
Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one
of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy
man. He was anxious to see what kind of
man Jesus was, but he was too short and
could not see him for the crowd; so he ran
ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch
a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way.
When Jesus reached the spot he looked up
and spoke to him: "Zacchaeus, come down.
Hurry, because I must stay at your house
today." And he hurried down and welcomed
him joyfully. They all complained when they
saw what was happening. "He has gone
to stay at a sinner's house" they said. But
Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the
Lord, "Look, sir, I am going to give half my

property to the poor, and if I have cheated
anybody I will pay him back four times the
amount." And Jesus said to him, "Today
salvation has come to this house, because
this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son
of Man has come to seek out and save what
was lost."

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

May these sacrificial offerings, O Lord,
become for you a pure oblation,
and for us a holy outpouring of your mercy.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

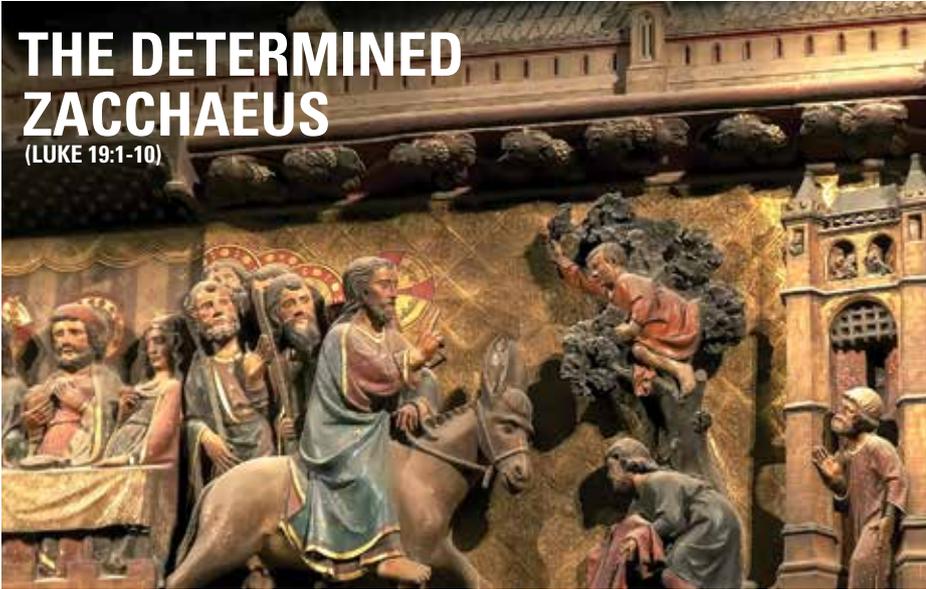
**You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the working of your power, O Lord,
increase in us, we pray,
so that, renewed by these heavenly
Sacraments,
we may be prepared by your gift
for receiving what they promise.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE DETERMINED ZACCHAEUS

(LUKE 19:1-10)



A carving of Christ and Zacchaeus in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris

Zacchaeus is a person with three disadvantages: 1. He is a tax-collector, and a senior one at that; 2. He is wealthy; 3. He is short in stature. His great advantage, though, is that he is “anxious” to see Jesus, to find out who exactly he is.

He is so determined to satisfy his curiosity that he is prepared to set aside the dignity of his position to climb a tree in the sight of all the people of Jericho and risk their laughter and scorn. His willingness pays off. Jesus sees him and invites himself to dinner at Zacchaeus’ house. Once more we see the significance of sharing a meal, and Zacchaeus responds “joyfully”, which in Luke’s Gospel is a sign that salvation has been extended and accepted. The tax-collector is transformed and promises to distribute his money to the poor and to observe the demands of the Law by paying back to the full if he discovers that he has overcharged anyone.

Of course, the killjoys are at hand to present the other attitude by grumbling about Jesus sharing table-fellowship with “a sinner”. This gives Zacchaeus the opportunity to stop in full view of them and declare to Jesus his firm purpose of amendment. Jesus responds by identifying him as a “son of Abraham”. The story began with Zacchaeus seeking Jesus: it ends with Zacchaeus being the one sought and found. ■

SAY

The Lord is kind and full of compassion (Psalm 144:8)

LEARN

Jericho is situated about eight miles north of the Dead Sea, and 15 miles from Jerusalem.

Jericho was a popular winter resort for the people of Jerusalem, which was at an altitude of 2,500 feet, so cold and windy at that time of the year.

In Luke’s Gospel, joy is a sign that the Messianic Kingdom is present.

DO

Look up into a tree, especially one by a busy road: would you be prepared to climb up it to catch a glimpse of Jesus? What would you think of someone who would be?



REFLECT

Jesus has already met another rich and prominent person who reacted in the opposite way to Zacchaeus. In contrast to Zacchaeus, the rich ruler found that he could not accept Jesus’ teaching that the price of eternal life was giving away his fortune to the poor. Zacchaeus exhibits joy and spontaneous generosity in the face of Jesus’ accepting him because he realises that this means that he was saved. The other person becomes sad, because he cannot bear to part with his possessions. The cost is too high for him.

Poverty is something that we feel should not exist. Luke and the prophets do not romanticise poor people or their plight: they do not say that we should all be destitute. What they do say is that if some individuals are suffering as a result of not having enough while others have more than they need or can use, then this is an injustice and a stain on God’s covenant people.

Perhaps we ought to ask if the way in which our society is structured may be sinful. In a lot of teaching and preaching,

sin is seen as something personal, almost private, an offence against God, usually in limited moral terms. But there is something more serious which is called ‘structural sin’, where an unjust society is the inevitable outcome of economic policies. As Archbishop Helder Camara said, “When I give food to the hungry, they call me a saint: when I ask why the hungry have no food, they call me a communist!” Are we like Zacchaeus or the rich ruler? ■