

focus on sunday

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS 3rd January 2021

Jesus is the One sent by God who speaks to us about the wisdom and truth of God. By accepting him we too become children of God and are filled with grace and truth.



Rather heavenly readings today – wisdom coming forth from God, her home in the heights; Jesus the Word who was with God in eternity. This is one environment of God. The other is the earth. In Jesus earth and heaven meet. He gave up the joy of heaven to come among us, die among us and rise from death. He returns to God and with him goes all that is human. Maybe it is good in the season of the child, the family and all that is so ordinary to refresh our belief that Jesus is Son; is from the blessed Trinity; and is God. He was sent to us out of the love of the Father who 'let him go' to his death and then raised him in resurrection.

All this brings the divine presence very near. In reading the word of the Word, in praying with and to Jesus, we are touching the mystery that is God. Before we know anything about God, we believe that God is mystery. We will plumb the depths of this mystery all our lives.

But it comes near to us. Every mass is the live commemoration of the death and resurrection of the Lord. The bread of heaven becomes the bread of earth. Mass is more than a time of quiet, listening to a homily or enjoying some music. No matter what the externals, the mystery of Eucharist is the mystery of God made one of us in Jesus.

When we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus, until you come again.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger



Indeed, from his fullness we have, all of us, received - yes, grace in return for grace, since, though the Law was given through Moses, grace and truth have come through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; it is the only Son, who is nearest to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

NICENE CREED

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 for following 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.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify, O Lord, the offerings we make on the Nativity of your Only Begotten Son, for by it you show us the way of truth and promise the life of the heavenly Kingdom. Through Christ our Lord.

2. He established peace on your borders, he feeds you with finest wheat. He sends out his word to the earth and swiftly runs his command. [R]
3. He makes his word known to Jacob, to Israel his laws and decrees. He has not dealt thus with other nations; he has not taught them his decrees. [R]

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ. Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ, to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence, determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ, for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace, his free gift to us in the Beloved.

That will explain why I, having once heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus, and the love that you show towards all the saints, have never failed to remember you in my prayers and to thank God for you. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you a spirit of wisdom and perception of what is revealed, to bring you to full knowledge of him. May he enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see what hope his call holds for you, what rich glories he has promised the saints will inherit.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

GOSPEL John 1:1-18 (or *1:1-5.9-14*)

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John. (shorter version in italics)

** In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things came to be, not one thing had its being but through him. All that came to be had life in him and that life was the light of men, a light that shines in the dark, a light that darkness could not overpower.**

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

The Word was the true light that enlightens all men; and he was coming into the world. He was in the world that had its being through him, and the world did not know him. He came to his own domain and his own people did not accept him. But to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to all who believe in the name of him who was born not out of human stock or urge of the flesh, or will of man but of God himself. The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John appears as his witness. He proclaims: 'This is the one of whom I said: He who comes after me ranks before me because he existed before me.'

[R]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

When a profound silence covered all things and night was in the middle of its course, your all-powerful Word, O Lord, bounded from heaven's royal throne.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you raise us to new life:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgive us our sins:

Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your body and blood:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us..... Amen.

THE 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



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, splendour of faithful souls, graciously be pleased to fill the world with your glory, and show yourself to all peoples by the radiance of your light. Through our Lord Jesus Christ,.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Sir 24:1-2.8-12

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Wisdom speaks her own praises, in the midst of her people she glories in herself. She opens her mouth in the assembly of the Most High, she glories in herself in the presence of the Mighty One. 'Then the creator of all things instructed me, and who created me fixed a place for my tent. He said, "Pitch your tent in Jacob, make Israel your inheritance." From eternity, in the beginning, he created me, and for eternity I shall remain. I ministered before him in the holy tabernacle, and thus was I established on Zion. In the beloved city he has given me rest, and in Jerusalem I wield my authority. I have taken root in a privileged people, in the Lord's property, in his inheritance.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps.147:12-15.19-20

R. The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

1. O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

Zion, praise your God!

He has strengthened the bars of your gates, he has blessed the children within you

[R]