



THE LORD'S DAY AT HOME

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST [CORPUS CHRISTI]

14th June 2020

If you are housebound or self-isolating at this time, please use these prayers to unite yourself with the worship of the Universal Church, and your own Parish, this Sunday. If alone, read or say these prayers quietly to yourself. If with another, or in a family, someone should read the "leader" parts, and others respond. It might be suitable to find a special, quiet place at home for your Sunday prayers.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Leader: This is a difficult feast to celebrate at home, when we are unable to receive the gift that Jesus gives us, of his Body and Blood – and it is now quite a long time since we were able to receive holy Communion. Perhaps today we can offer our prayer in solidarity with all those, past and present, who have been unable to receive this gift – our own forebears in the time when Catholics were not allowed to celebrate Mass in our country, or people today, especially in the developing world, who have no access to Mass, or perhaps do so only every couple of months. The gift of Jesus, while a real, physical gift that we eat and drink, is also a *spiritual* gift – a gift of presence and communion beyond the physical. Let us give thanks for that, as we look forward to receiving his Body and Blood again in the future. We praise our God this Sunday as we say:

GLORIA

All: 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

Leader: Let us pray. O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament have left us a memorial of your Passion, grant us, we pray, so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood that we may always experience in ourselves the fruits of your

redemption. Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

GOSPEL READING

John 6:51-58

Jesus said to the crowd: 'I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world.' Then the Jews started arguing with one another: 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' they said. Jesus replied: 'I tell you most solemnly, if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you will not have life in you. Anyone who does eat my flesh and drink my blood has eternal life, and I shall raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I live in him. As I, who am sent by the living Father, myself draw life from the Father, so whoever eats me will draw life from me. This is the bread come down from heaven; not like the bread our ancestors ate: they are dead, but anyone who eats this bread will live for ever.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

REFLECTION

Leader: The Eucharist is not a thing – it is a person. Jesus gives himself to us, not as an idea or concept, not as a symbol or memory, but as a living reality in our here and now. This faith of the Church in the "real presence" of Jesus is what we celebrate today. But as we do so far from our church buildings, unable to receive holy communion, it challenges us to think a little more broadly about that presence. Our priests are still celebrating Mass every day, and this is true throughout the whole world. Just imagine, for a moment, all those Masses; imagine them connected up, like a network, each Mass a point where the Body and Blood of Jesus are truly present. Each Mass is the presence of the same Lord Jesus, who thus spreads his presence across the whole world. We may not be at church, we may not be receiving holy communion, but the "net" that is the real presence of Jesus is spreading over us even now, from altar to altar throughout the world.

A THOUGHT FOR OUR YOUNGER FRIENDS

One of the most important moments in our lives when we are growing up is our First Holy Communion. Sadly, some of our young

friends are still waiting for this – but it will happen, as soon as we are able to gather together in Church! The reason First Holy Communion is so important is because we meet Jesus in a new way: we become his friends at the Last Supper, and hear Jesus say “This is my Body” – this is ME, coming to stay with you! If you have already made your First Communion, say a thank you prayer today, and perhaps dig out some souvenirs or memories! If you are still waiting for your First Communion, say a prayer for patience – the day will come when Jesus comes to you!

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Jesus’ gift of himself in the Eucharist shows how he wants to be close to us. Let us offer our prayers through him now.

Leader: Let us pray for the family of the Church, united throughout the world by the one body of Christ we share. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Let us pray for our children still waiting for their First Holy Communion, that they may have patience and hope. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Let us pray for all our parishioners, that this time of being away from church may deepen our faith and reverence for the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Lord, in your mercy ...

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Please add your own prayers for the needs of the Church, the world and your local community. You may wish to add particular prayers for family members, friends or neighbours in need at this time.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Leader: At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Leader: Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace, whose signs are to be seen in mystery, in the bread and wine offered at Mass. Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

PREPARATION FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Leader: Almighty Father, at the Last Supper with his Apostles, establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of the Cross, Jesus your Son offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb, the acceptable gift of perfect praise. Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery, you make them holy, so that the human race, bounded by one world, may be enlightened by one faith and united by one bond of charity. Jesus showed the fullness of your love, as he gave his Body and Blood for his people. Even though we are not in Church, and not able to receive communion today, we open our minds and hearts now to your generous love and the gift of Jesus your Son, welcoming him spiritually into our lives.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

All: **My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen.**

Pause for a moment of silent prayer and reflection.



THANKSGIVING PSALM

Leader: O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!

O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!
Zion, praise your God!
He has strengthened the bars of your gates
he has blessed the children within you.

All: **O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!**

Leader: 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.

All: **O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!**

Leader: 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.

All: **O praise the Lord, Jerusalem!**

FINAL PRAYER AND BLESSING

Leader: Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by the mystery of your precious Body and Blood. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: May the Lord ✠ bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God!**