

30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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

Sirach 35:15b-17, 20-22b

The Lord is the judge, and with him is no partiality. He will not show partiality in the case of a poor man; and he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged. He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan or the widow when she pours out her story. He whose service is pleasing to the Lord will be accepted, and his prayer will reach to the clouds. The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds, and he will not be consoled until it reaches the Lord; he will not desist until the Most High visits him and does justice for the righteous and

executes judgement. And the Lord will not delay.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

*Ps 34(33):2-3. 17-18. 19, 23.
R 7a*

**R The lowly one called,
and the Lord heard him.**

I will bless the Lord at all times, praise of him is always in my mouth. In the Lord my soul shall make its boast; the humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

The Lord turns his face against the wicked to cut off their remembrance from the earth. When the just one cries out, the Lord hears, and rescues him in all his distress. **R**

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; those whose spirit is crushed he will save. The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants. All who trust in him shall not be condemned. **R**

SECOND READING

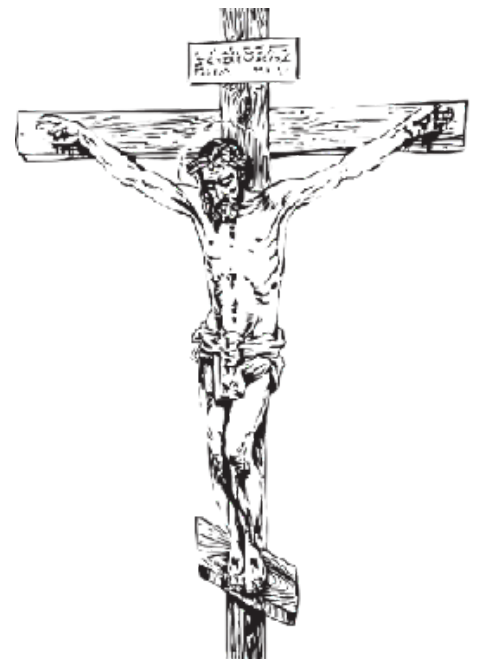
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Beloved: I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there

is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but also to all who have loved his appearing.

At my first defence no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia...

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Alleluia...

GOSPEL

Luke 18:9-14

At that time: Jesus told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: ‘Two men went up into the Temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: “God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.” But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, we pray, O Lord, on the offerings we make to your majesty, that whatever is done by us in your service may be directed above all to your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your Sacraments, O Lord, we pray, perfect in us what lies within them, that what we now celebrate in signs we may one day possess in truth. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

One aspect that we must foster in our communities with greater commitment is the experience of silence. We need silence “if we are to accept in our hearts the full resonance of the voice of the Holy Spirit and to unite our personal prayer more closely to the Word of God and the public voice of the Church”. In a society that lives at an increasingly frenetic pace, often deafened by noise and confused by the ephemeral, it is vital to rediscover the value of silence. The spread, also outside Christian worship, of practices of meditation that give priority to recollection is

not accidental. Why not start with... daring a specific education...? Let us keep before our eyes the example of Jesus, who “rose and went out to a lonely place, and there he prayed” (Mk 1: 35). The Liturgy, with its different moments and symbols, cannot ignore silence.

John Paul II, Spiritus et Sponsa[SS]

Real silence though is not just an absence of noise. We can be very noisy indeed on the inside even if the outside is quiet. It is also possible to be quiet on the inside while chaos reigns on the outside. This is because silence helps us get in touch with our real selves and opens the path for us to hear the still, small voice of God. Silence is indeed golden. For some of us, however, befriending silence is not easy. It can be difficult to find some silence in a noisy world, especially as it is such a rarity. It can be difficult because we are not used to it and we so easily get distracted. Sometimes we forget that the mind is there to think with. It abhors a vacuum so it is well nigh impossible for it to stop thinking. But we can quieten it and the worst thing we can do with distractions is be distracted by them. Let them go. Do not beat yourself up about them or give them undue attention. What silence does is to help us shift to a different interior space. It opens us up and balances us. So, how can we befriend it and discover the immense value it has?

*Catholic Bishops' Conference
of England and Wales,
Do you love me? A guide to
Catholic Spirituality, page 41*