



Praying at Home this Sunday

November 22, 2020

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. + **Amen.**
(All briefly call to mind their sins, praising God for his mercy.)

Leader: Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who calls us to life: Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ Jesus, you are the first fruits of creation: Christ have mercy.

Response: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you came to show sinners the way: Lord, have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Let us pray: (Pause)

Almighty God,
 you have conferred upon Christ Jesus
 sovereignty over every age and nation.
 Direct us, I the love of Christ,
 to care for the least of his brothers and sisters,
 that we may be subject to his dominion
 and receive the inheritance of your kingdom.
 Grant this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

A reading from the Book of the prophet Ezekiel (34:11-12, 15-17)

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will look after and tend my sheep.

As a shepherd tends his flock

when he finds himself among his scattered sheep,

so will I tend my sheep.

I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered

when it was cloudy and dark.

I myself will pasture my sheep;

I myself will give them rest, says the Lord GOD.

The lost I will seek out,

the strayed I will bring back,

the injured I will bind up,

the sick I will heal,

but the sleek and the strong I will destroy,

shepherding them rightly.

As for you, my sheep, says the Lord GOD,

I will judge between one sheep and another,

between rams and goats.

The word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
In verdant pastures he gives me repose.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Beside restful waters he leads me;
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me in right paths
for his name's sake.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You spread the table before me
in the sight of my foes;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for years to come.

R. The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

A reading from the First Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians (15, 20-26. 28)

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised from the dead,

the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

For since death came through man,

the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die,

so too in Christ shall all be brought to life,

but each one in proper order:

Christ the firstfruits;

then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;

then comes the end,

when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father,

when he has destroyed every sovereignty

and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.

The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

When everything is subjected to him,

then the Son himself will also be subjected

to the one who subjected everything to him,

so that God may be all in all.

The word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew (25, 31-46)

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right,

'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,

I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,

naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me,

in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say,

'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,

or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you, a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did

for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed,

into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food,

I was thirsty and you gave me no drink,

a stranger and you gave me no welcome,

naked and you gave me no clothing,

ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty

or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you,

what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

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

Discussion Questions:

1. How have you experienced God's shepherding care most recently?
2. Have you seen the face of Christ in another person recently?
3. Has Christ reached out to you through another person recently?

Sample Intercessions:

1. For bishops and priests, may they shepherd God's flock with wisdom and compassion, always aligning themselves with the poor and vulnerable: we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
2. For law enforcement officers throughout the world, as they protect and care for the people they serve, may their own lives be protected: we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
3. For those who lack food, water, shelter, and clothing, may those who have an abundance willingly share with those who have nothing: we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
4. For all unemployed and under-employed adults, may they find work: we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
5. For all who are sick, especially those with the coronavirus: we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
6. For those who have died, may they be welcomed into the wedding banquet of heaven with joy: we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**
7. For all members of our parish, may we go forth to be Christ's hands and feet in the world: we pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us pray together as Jesus taught:

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.

Prayer for Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if you are already there

and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Closing Prayer:

God of perfect justice and perfect mercy,

at the end of time, your son Jesus,

will come to judge the nations.

Hear our prayers that we might dedicate our lives

to serve you in all those who need our care.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Sign of the Cross +