

Thirty First Sunday of the Year B



**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! Psalm 37:22-23**

There is a lot of wisdom to getting back to basics. Our relationships, our work, can accumulate barnacles that cloud our original focus and direction. These barnacles, if left unchecked, can distort what lies underneath. Jesus, through the teaching on the two great commandments, brings us back to the basics of our faith and our original purpose and direction. We discover anew that love of God and love of neighbour are most important.

So let's ask forgiveness for the times our heart was not given over to God.

Lord Jesus, you alone are Lord. Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are our strength. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the High Priest. Lord, have mercy.

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.

Let us pray:

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

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy [6:2-6]

Moses said to the people: "If you fear the Lord your God all the days of your life and if you keep all his laws and commandments which I lay on you, you will have a long life, you and your son and your grandson. Listen then, Israel, keep and observe what will make you prosper and give you great increase, as the Lord God of your fathers has promised you, giving you a land where milk and honey flow. Listen, Israel: The Lord our God is the one Lord. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength. Let these words I urge on you today be written on your heart."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 17

Response: I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord, my strength,
my rock, my fortress, my saviour .
My God is the rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my mighty help, my stronghold.
The Lord is worthy of all praise:
when I call I am saved from my foes.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

Long life to the Lord, my rock!
Praised be the God who saves me.
He has given great victories to his king
and shown his love for his anointed.

I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews [7:23-28]

There used to be a great number of those other priests, because death put an end to each of them; but this one, Christ, because he remains for ever, can never lose his priesthood. It follows, then, that his power to save is utterly certain, since he is living for ever to intercede for all who come to God through him. To suit us, the ideal high priest would have to be holy, innocent and uncontaminated, beyond the influence of sinners, and raised up above the heavens; one who would not need to offer sacrifices every day, as the other high priests do for their own sins and then for those of the people, because he has done this once and for all by offering himself. The Law appoints high priests who are men subject to weakness; but the promise on oath, which came after the Law, appointed the Son who is made perfect for ever.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord,
and they are life:
you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!**

GOSPEL

Mark 12:28-34

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord.

One of the scribes now came up and put a question to him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice." Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And after that no one dared to question him any more.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

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.

Offertory:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offering:

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.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For we know it belongs to your boundless glory,

that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity
and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself,
that the cause of our downfall
might become the means of our salvation,
through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty
and rejoices in your presence for ever.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs

in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith. **Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection, you have set us free.**

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

PRAYER - REFLECTION

Bearing the fruits of love

If only the heart was right we could give so much more.
Lord, open our hearts when they are closed,
soften them when they are hard,
warm them when they are cold,
brighten them when they are dark,
fill them when they are empty,
calm them when they are troubled,
cleanse them when they are sullied,
heal them when they are wounded,
and mend them when they are broken,
so that we, your disciples,
may bear the fruits of love. Amen.

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.**

Final Blessing:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

Thanks be to God.

For our beautiful and bruised earth: I pray to you, creator of things. grant that we might reverence what we take for granted and learn to honour what we now spoil awaken in us a wonder for the earth we have inherited from your providence. may our care and attention be partners in the growth of your world, now and always. Amen

PRAYER FOR INNER PEACE:

Lord, the example of your life tells me of an inner peace that I truly desire. Your care for people who were ill or living in sin shows that you're always with me, helping me find healing and peace. Thank you for your response of compassion toward all who needed you, for I know that I need you often. Give me the peace of knowing that you are with me as I try to proclaim the message of your love. Help me to feel you at my side in trials, that my responses to injustice will tell others of the power of your love. Lord, I am grateful that you never abandon me, even when I think that you have. Help me not to abandon you, but to keep my ears attuned to your voice, the voice that gives me peace. Amen.