

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE SILENT ADORATION of the infant Jesus by the Magi is one of the purest prayers in the New Testament. These men put aside everything in their lives to travel across the desert to kneel down and pay homage to Jesus. They bring him precious gifts and ask nothing for themselves.

In contrast stands the disruptive Canaanite woman in today's Gospel who comes to Jesus shouting and demanding that he cast out the demon which oppresses her daughter. Jesus says nothing. "He did not answer her at all."

The woman's tune changes upon hearing Jesus say that he was sent only to the lost sheep

of Israel. She kneels before him and says a prayer of abandonment: "Lord, help me." Now she no longer demands favours from a wonder-worker Jesus, but places herself at his feet. It is a moment of vulnerability and conversion.

What does this mean for us? Like the foreign woman and the foreign wise men, we can come to Jesus, not to make him hop to our agenda, but rather to bow before him. We are puny; Jesus is awesome. Praise and worship are the stance of faith. Our right relationship with Jesus is to pay him homage and to humbly beg, "Jesus, help me."

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Roman Missal p. 456; Sunday Lectionary p. 497

Entrance Antiphon (*Psalm 83.10-11*)

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield; and look on the face of your anointed one; one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

Introductory Rites (p. 5)

Collect

O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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 (*Isaiah 56.1, 6-7*)

Thus says the Lord: “Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed.

“And the foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, to minister to him, to love the name of the Lord, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath, and do not profane it, and hold fast my covenant — these I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

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

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 67)

Let the peo - ples praise you, O
God, let all the peo - ples praise you!

R. Let the peoples praise you, O God,
let all the peoples praise you!

May God be gracious to us · **and** bless_us
and make his face to shine · **up-on**_us,
that your way may be known up-**on** earth,
your saving power a-**mong** all nations. **R.**

Let the nations be glad and sing · **for** joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations
· **upon** earth.

Let the peoples praise you, · **O** God;
let all the · **peo**-ples praise_you. **R.**

The earth has yielded · **its** increase;
God, our God, · **has** blessed_us.
May God continue · **to** bless_us;
let all the ends of the · **earth** re-vere_him. **R.**

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Second Reading (Romans 11.13-15, 29-32)

Brothers and sisters: Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an Apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry in order to make my own flesh and blood jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead!

The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

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

Gospel Acclamation (See Matthew 4.23)

Alleluia. Alleluia. Jesus proclaimed the good news of the kingdom and cured every sickness. **Alleluia.**

Gospel (Matthew 15.21-28)

The Lord be with you. **And with your spirit.**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that region came out, and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all.

And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But the woman came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and

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throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”

Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

Profession of Faith (p. 8)

Prayer of the Faithful

The following intentions are suggestions only. There are more suggestions at www.livingwithchrist.ca

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church and its leaders, called to hear and to proclaim the words of the prophets, we pray to the Lord: R.

For leaders of nations willing to risk the prophetic task of establishing peace and justice, we pray to the Lord: R.

For those who are poor, sick and persecuted, and for all who minister to them, we pray to the Lord: R.

For this community, called in baptism to be a people of prophetic words and actions, we pray to the Lord: R.

Preparation of the Gifts (p. 10)

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive our oblation, O Lord, by which is brought about a glorious exchange, that, by offering what you have given, we may merit to receive your very self. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface (*Sundays in Ordinary Time, p. 11*)

Communion Antiphon (*Psalm 129.7*)

With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.

or

(John 6.51-52)

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord. Whoever eats of this bread will live for ever.

Prayer after Communion

Made partakers of Christ through these Sacraments, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that, conformed to his image on earth, we may merit also to be his co-heirs in heaven. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal (*p. 30*)