Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

343

fortunate, because repayment will be made to you when the virtuous rise again.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Profession of Faith - pages 14-15.

Prayer over the Offerings

May this sacred offering, O Lord, confer on us always the blessing of salvation, that what it celebrates in mystery it may accomplish in power. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface I-VIII of Sundays in Ordinary Time - pages 23-26.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 30:20

How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

Or:

Mt 5:9-10

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Prayer after Communion

Renewed by this bread from the heavenly table, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing - pages 57-59.

4 SEPTEMBER

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

'The Kingdom of God' is a term which we frequently meet in Luke's gospel. It is a metaphor used by Jesus to refer to God's reign in the world being accepted by humankind. The Kingdom is not identical with the Church. Wherever the values which Jesus lived and preached are operating, even though the Church may not be established in that place, the Kingdom is already there.

Entrance Antiphon

Ps 118:137.124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

Greeting, Penitential Rite, Gloria - pages 7-13.

Collect

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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.

FIRST READING

Ws 9:13-18

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Who can divine the will of the Lord?

'What man can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above?

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

345

Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 89:3-6.12-14.17

- B O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.
- You turn men back into dust and say: 'Go back, sons of men.'
 To your eyes a thousand years are like yesterday, come and gone, no more than a watch in the night.
- 2. You sweep men away like a dream, like grass which springs up in the morning. In the morning it springs up and flowers: by evening it withers and fades. R
- 3. Make us know the shortness of our life that we may gain wisdom of heart.

 Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever.

 Show pity to your servants.
- 4. In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days. Let the favour of the Lord be upon us: give success to the work of our hands.

SECOND READING

Phm 9-10.12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to Philemon. Have him back, not as a slave any more, but as a dear brother.

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have

him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

In 15:15

Alleluia, alleluia! I call you friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. Alleluia!

Or:

Ps 118:135

Alleluia, alleluia! Let your face shine on your servant, and teach me your decrees. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 14:25-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

None of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Profession of Faith - pages 14-15.

Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface I-VIII of Sundays in Ordinary Time - pages 23-26.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 41:2-3

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

Or:

Jn 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Prayer after Communion

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing - pages 57-59.

11 SEPTEMBER

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Christian assembly is an assembly of disciples of Jesus. A disciple is literally one who is learning. Learning requires openness of mind and heart. The scripture readings and the prayers of today's liturgy are a powerful force for teaching and learning about the way of Jesus.

Entrance Antiphon

Cf. Sir 36:18

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

Greeting, Penitential Rite, Gloria - pages 7-13.

Collect

Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart. 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.

FIRST READING

Ex 32:7-11.13-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

The Lord spoke to Moses, 'Go down now, because your people whom you brought out of Egypt have apostasised. They have been quick to leave the way I marked out for them; they have made themselves a calf of molten metal and have worshipped it and offered it sacrifice. "Here is your God, Israel," they have cried "who brought you up from the land of Egypt!" I can see how headstrong these people are! Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them; of you, however, I will make a great nation.'

But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God. 'Lord,' he said, 'why should your wrath blaze out against this people of yours whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with arm outstretched and mighty hand? Remember Abraham, Isaac and

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

349

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cf. Eph 1:17-18

Jacob, your servants to whom by your own self you swore and made this promise: I will make your offspring as many as the stars of heaven, and all this land which I promised I will give to your descendants, and it shall be their heritage for ever.' So the Lord relented and did not bring on the people the disaster he had threatened.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 50:3-4.12-13.17.19

- By I will leave this place and go to my father.
- Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness.
 In your compassion blot out my offence.
 O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.
- A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.
 Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit.
- O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall declare your praise. My sacrifice is a contrite spirit; a humbled, contrite heart you will not spurn.

SECOND READING

1 Tm 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, and who judged me faithful enough to call me into his service even though I used to be a blasphemer and did all I could to injure and discredit the faith. Mercy, however, was shown me, because until I became a believer I had been acting in ignorance; and the grace of our Lord filled me with faith and with the love that is in Christ Jesus. Here is a saying that you can rely on and nobody should doubt: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. I myself am the greatest of them; and if mercy has been shown to me, it is because Jesus Christ meant to make me the greatest evidence of his inexhaustible patience for all the other people who would later have to trust in him to come to eternal life. To the eternal King, the undying, invisible and only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

Or: 2 Cor 5:19

Alleluia, alleluia!

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 15:1-32

(For Shorter Form, read between) 4).

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. There will be rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner.

The tax collectors and the sinners were all seeking the company of Jesus to hear what he had to say, and the Pharisees and the scribes complained. 'This man' they said 'welcomes sinners and eats with them.' So he spoke this parable to them:

'What man among you with a hundred sheep, losing one, would not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one till he found it? And when he found it, would he not joyfully take it on his shoulders and then, when he got home, call together his friends, and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," he would say "I have found my sheep that was lost." In the same way, I tell you, there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine virtuous men who have no need of repentance.

'Or again, what woman with ten drachmas would not, if she lost one, light a lamp and sweep out the house and search thoroughly till she found it? And then, when she had found it, call together her friends and neighbours? "Rejoice with me," she would say "I have found the drachma I lost." In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing among the angels of God over one repentant sinner.'

He also said, 'A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, "Father, let me have the share of the estate that would come to me." So the father divided the property between them. A few days later the younger son got together everything he had

and left for a distant country where he squandered his money on a life of debauchery.

'When he had spent it all, that country experienced a severe famine, and now he began to feel the pinch, so he hired himself out to one of the local inhabitants who put him on his farm to feed the pigs. And he would willingly have filled his belly with the husks the pigs were eating but no one offered him anything. Then he came to his senses and said, "How many of my father's paid servants have more food than they want, and here am I dying of hunger! I will leave this place and go to my father and say: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as one of your paid servants." So he left the place and went back to his father.

'While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly. Then his son said, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son." But the father said to his servants, "Quick! Bring out the best robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the calf we have been fattening, and kill it; we are going to have a feast, a celebration, because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and is found." And they began to celebrate.

'Now the elder son was out in the fields, and on his way back, as he drew near the house, he could hear music and dancing. Calling one of the servants he asked what it was all about. "Your brother has come" replied the servant "and your father has killed the calf we had fattened because he has got him back safe and sound." He was angry then and refused to go in, and his father came out to plead with him; but he answered his father, "Look, all these years I have slaved for you and never once disobeyed your orders, yet you never offered me so much as a kid for me to celebrate with my friends. But, for this son of yours, when he comes back after swallowing up your property he and his women – you kill the calf we had been fattening."

'The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it was only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Profession of Faith - pages 14-15.

Prayer over the Offerings

Look with favour on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept these, your servants' offerings, that what each has offered to the honour of your name may serve the salvation of all.

Through Christ our Lord.

Preface I-VIII of Sundays in Ordinary Time - pages 23-26.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 35:8

How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

Or:

Cf. 1 Cor 10:16

The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us.

Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing - pages 57-59.

18 SEPTEMBER

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

At every Mass we recite the Lord's prayer. The liturgy of the Church uses this prayer also each day at morning prayer and evening prayer. It is Jesus' response to the request of his disciples to teach them how to pray. In Matthew's account it contains seven petitions and in Luke's five. The Church has used Matthew's version in its liturgical celebration.

Entrance antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

Greeting, Penitential Rite, Gloria - pages 7-13.

Collect

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbour, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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.

FIRST READING

Am 8:4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Against those who 'buy up the poor for money.'

Listen to this, you who trample on the needy and try to suppress the poor people of the country, you who say, 'When will New Moon be over so that we can sell our corn, and sabbath, so that we can market our wheat? Then by lowering the bushel, raising the shekel, by swindling and tampering with the scales, we can buy up the poor for money, and the needy for a pair of sandals, and get a price even for the sweepings of the wheat.' The Lord swears it by the pride of Jacob, 'Never will I forget a single thing you have done.'

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 112:1-2.4-8

Praise the Lord, who raises the poor.

Alleluia!

- Praise, O servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord!
 May the name of the Lord be blessed both now and for evermore!
- 2. High above all nations is the Lord, above the heavens his glory.

 Who is like the Lord, our God, who has risen on high to his throne yet stoops from the heights to look down, to look down upon heaven and earth?
- 3. From the dust he lifts up the lowly, from the dungheap he raises the poor to set him in the company of princes, yes, with the princes of his people. **B**

SECOND READING

1 Tm 2:1-8

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy.

There should be prayers offered for everyone to God, who wants everyone to be saved.

My advice is that, first of all, there should be prayers offered for everyone – petitions, intercessions and thanksgiving – and especially for kings and others in authority, so that we may be able to live religious and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our saviour: he wants everyone to be saved and reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind, himself a man, Christ Jesus, who sacrificed himself as a ransom for them all. He is the evidence of this, sent at the appointed time, and I have been named a herald and apostle of it and – I am telling the truth and no lie – a teacher of the faith and the truth to the pagans.

In every place, then, I want the men to lift their hands up reverently in prayer, with no anger or argument.

The word of the Lord.

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

355

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Cf. Acts 16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!

Open our heart, O Lord,

to accept the words of your Son, Alleluia!

Or:

2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Lk 16:1-13

(For Shorter Form, read between ♦ 4).

welcome me into their homes."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.

▶Jesus said to his disciples, ♠ "There was a rich man and he had a steward who was denounced to him for being wasteful with his property. He called for the man and said, "What is this I hear about you? Draw me up an account of your stewardship because you are not to be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "Now that my master is taking the stewardship from me, what am I to do? Dig? I am not strong enough. Go begging? I should be too ashamed. Ah, I know what I will do to make sure that when I am dismissed from office there will be some to

"Then he called his master's debtors one by one. To the first he said, "How much do you owe my master?" "One hundred measures of oil" was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond; sit down straight away and write fifty." To another he said, "And you, sir, how much do you owe?" "One hundred measures of wheat" was the reply. The steward said, "Here, take your bond and write eighty."

The master praised the dishonest steward for his astuteness. For the children of this world are more astute in dealing with their own kind than are the children of light.

'And so I tell you this: use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into the tents of eternity. The man who can be trusted in little things can be trusted in great; the man who is dishonest in little things can be dishonest in great. If then you cannot be trusted with money, that tainted thing, who will trust

you with genuine riches? And if you cannot be trusted with what is not yours, who will give you what is your very own?

'No servant can be the slave of two masters: he will either hate the first and love the second, or treat the first with respect and the second with scorn. You cannot be the slave both of God and of money.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Profession of Faith - pages 14-15.

Prayer over the Offerings

Receive with favour, O Lord, we pray, the offerings of your people, that what they profess with devotion and faith may be theirs through these heavenly mysteries. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface I-VIII of Sundays in Ordinary Time - pages 23-26.

Communion Antiphon

Ps 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

Or:

Jn 10:14

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me.

Prayer after Communion

Graciously raise up, O Lord, those you renew with this Sacrament, that we may come to possess your redemption both in mystery and in the manner of our life. Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing - pages 57-59.

25 SEPTEMBER

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Lord's prayer has been described as a summary of the whole gospel. Saint Augustine maintained that there is nothing in all the prayers found in the scriptures which is not included in the Lord's prayer. Each person has their own particular needs which they may bring before the Father. The Lord's prayer may be said as an expression of the foundation of all further desires.

Entrance Antiphon

Dn 3:31.29.30.43.42

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

Greeting, Penitential Rite, Gloria - pages 7-13.

Collect

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

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.

FIRST READING

Am 6:1.4-7

A reading from the prophet Amos.

Those who sprawl and those who bawl will be exiled.

The almighty Lord says this:

Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Zion and to those who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. Lying on ivory beds and sprawling on their divans, they dine on lambs from the flock, and stall-fattened veal; they bawl to the sound of the harp,

they invent new instruments of music like David, they drink wine by the bowlful, and use the finest oil for anointing themselves, but about the ruin of Joseph they do not care at all. That is why they will be the first to be exiled; the sprawlers' revelry is over.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145:6-10

R My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Alleluia!

Alleiula:

- It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, who is just to those who are oppressed.
 It is he who gives bread to the hungry, the Lord, who sets prisoners free.
- It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, who raises up those who are bowed down.
 It is the Lord who loves the just, the Lord, who protects the stranger.
- 3. He upholds the widow and orphan but thwarts the path of the wicked. The Lord will reign for ever, Zion's God, from age to age. R

SECOND READING

1 Tm 6:11-16

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to Timothy. Do all that you have been told until the Appearing of the Lord.

As a man dedicated to God, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Jesus Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords,

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

359

who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen. The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Jn 10:27

Alleluia, alleluia!
The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord,
I know them and they follow me. Alleluia!

r: 2 Cor 8:9

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus Christ was rich, but he became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of his poverty. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Lk 16:19-31

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: 'There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.

'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." "My son," Abraham replied "remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours."

'The rich man replied, 'Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." "They have Moses and the prophets," said Abraham "let them listen to them." "Ah no, father Abraham," said the rich man "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent." Then Abraham said to him, "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Profession of Faith - pages 14-15.

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us. Through Christ our Lord.

Preface I-VIII of Sundays in Ordinary Time - pages 23-26.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Or:

1 Jn 3:16

By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

Prayer after Communion

May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Solemn Blessing - pages 57-59.