



17 August 2025

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

## Choices That Lead to Peace

Life is full of choices. The most fundamental one is the choice between good and evil, between God and sin. We Christians are among those who have chosen God/Christ and all that He stands for.

This choice is not just for a moment or a day. It is meant to be forever. This is what makes it even more demanding and challenging, for we are continually bombarded by the temptation to water down the demands of the Gospel or ignore them altogether. Sometimes we may tend to walk the road followed by the immense crowd of those who do not care about principles and readily settle for what is easier or more immediately rewarding.

Jesus never followed such a path even though that meant for him dying on the cross. If we are real disciples of him, our choice cannot be different from his.

In this Eucharist, let us ask the Lord of the grace to make the right choices and to live by them.



### INTRODUCTORY RITES



#### Entrance Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)*

**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.**

*(Ps 84 [83]:10-11)*

#### Greeting

**P** –Grace and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**All** – And with your spirit

#### Penitential Act

**P** –Brethren, let us acknowl-

edge our sins and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

**P** –You came to light the fire of God's love in our hearts. Lord, have mercy.

**All** – Lord, have mercy.

**P** –You came to light the fire of brotherly/sisterly love among all peoples. Christ, have mercy.

**All** – Christ, have mercy.

**P** –You came to wage war against hypocrisy and backsliding. Lord, have mercy.

**All** – Lord, have mercy.

**P** –May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All** – Amen.

#### Gloria

**All** – 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.

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### Collect (Opening Prayer)

**P** –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, God, for ever and ever.

**All**—Amen.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD



**1st Reading** *Jer 38:4-6.8-10*  
*Having spoken the truth out of duty cost the prophet Jeremiah the loss of popularity. It nearly cost him his life! But God takes care of those who serve Him faithfully, as we learn from today's First Reading.*

**R** – A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

In those days, the princes said to the king: “Jeremiah ought to be put to death; he is demoralizing the soldiers who are left in this city, and all the people, by speaking such things to them. He is not interested in the welfare of our people, but in their ruin.” King Zedekiah answered: “He is in your power”; for the king could do nothing with them. And so they took Jeremiah and threw him into the cistern of Prince Malchiah, which was in the quarters of the guard, letting him down with ropes. There was no water in the cistern, but only mud, and Jeremiah sank into the mud.

Ebed-melech, a court official, went there from the palace and said to him: “My lord king, these men have been at fault in all they have done to the prophet Jeremiah, casting him into the cistern. He will die of famine on the spot, for there

is no more food in the city.” Then the king ordered Ebed-melech the Cushite to take three men along with him, and draw the prophet Jeremiah out of the cistern before he should die.

The Word of the Lord.

**All**—Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

*Ps 40:2.3.4.18*

**R** –Lord, come to my aid!

*R. M. Velez*



\* I have waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped toward me. **R.**

\* The Lord heard my cry. He drew me out of the pit of destruction, out of the mud of the swamp; he set my feet upon a crag; he made firm my steps. **R.**

\* And he put a new song into my mouth, a hymn to our God. Many shall look in awe and trust in the Lord. **R.**

\* Though I am afflicted and poor, yet the Lord thinks of me. You are my help and my deliverer; O my God, hold not back! **R.**

### 2nd Reading *Heb 12:1-4*

*Jesus fulfilled his mission to the end, even if that entailed the shame of dying on the cross. His example should be our inspiration, especially when the fulfillment of our duty demands some big sacrifice. God will surely reward our faithfulness.*

**R** –A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the

race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith.

For the sake of the joy that lay before him he endured the cross, despising its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood.

The Word of the Lord.

**All**—Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation *Jn 10:27*

**All**—Alleluia, alleluia.

“My sheep hear my voice,” says the Lord; “I know them, and they follow me.” Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel *Lk 12:49-53*

*Some of Jesus' words in today's Gospel passage sound shocking, for we instinctively think of him not as one who sows discord, but as the “Peacemaker.” He is surely that, but not at the expense of his allegiance to the truth and the fulfillment of his mission.*

**P** –The Lord be with you.

**All**—And with your spirit.

**P** –A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All**—Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished!

Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. From now on a household of five will be divided, three against two and two against three; a father will be divided against his son and a son against his father, a moth-

**GLOSSARY:** • **Zedekiah:** The last king of Judah. He had some difficulty with the prophet Jeremiah who did not approve of his attitude toward the Babylonians. When he was defeated by Nebuchadnezzar, Zedekiah was forced to witness the execution of his children, then he was blinded and brought to Babylon where he died.

**er against her daughter and a daughter against her mother, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.”**

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

### Homily

#### Profession of Faith

*(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)*

**All—I** believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, *(bow)\* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.\** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

#### Prayer of the Faithful

**P** —As disciples of the Lord we are committed to seek all that is

true, honest, or worthy of praise. Aware of the many difficulties we may encounter in this area, let us ask the Lord’s help:

**All—Lord, help us follow you!**

**C** —That the Church may never be afraid to proclaim and defend the truth of the Gospel even at the cost of losing friends and privileges, let us pray. **R.**

**C** —That the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV and all other spiritual leaders may succeed in their efforts to uphold what is true, fair, and right, let us pray. **R.**

**C** —That all parents, teachers, and media people may instill in the children and youth a sincere love for the values of the Kingdom preached by Christ, let us pray. **R.**

**C** —That our youth may commit themselves to follow the teaching of the Church, without being swayed away by many pagan lifestyles they see in our society, let us pray. **R.**

**P** —Lord Jesus, faithfulness to your ideals may set us on a collision course with those who uphold principles that run counter to yours. Give us the courage we need to imitate your faithfulness and thereby share your glory for ever and ever.

**All—Amen.**

### LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



#### Preparation of the Gifts

**P** —Pray, brethren . . .

**All—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 Offerings

**P** —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.

**All—Amen.**

### Preface III

**P** —The Lord be with you.

**All—And with your spirit.**

**P** —Lift up your hearts.

**All—We lift them up to the Lord.**

**P** —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All—It is right and just.**

**P** —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:

**All—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.**

#### Memorial Acclamation

**P** —The mystery of faith!

**All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

### COMMUNION RITE



**All—Our Father...**

**P** —Deliver us, Lord...

**All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.**

#### Sign of Peace

#### Breaking of the Bread

**All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2×)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**



## Communion

**P** –Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.  
**All–Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

### Communion Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)*

**With the Lord there is mercy; in him is plentiful redemption.**  
*(Ps 130 (129):7)*

### Prayer after Communion

**P** –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 coheirs in heaven.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever

**All–CONCLUDING RITES**



**P** –The Lord be with you.

**All–And with your spirit.**

**P** –Bow down for the blessing.  
*(Pause)*

–May the Lord guide you to always make choices that

are according to His will.

**All–Amen.**

**P** –May the Lord give you the strength that you need to live by the right choices you have made.

**All–Amen.**

**P** –May the Lord reward with ever greater blessings your persevering in doing good.

**All–Amen.**

**P** –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All–Amen.**

**P** –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

**All–Thanks be to God.**

## NOT PEACE BUT DIVISION

*Kalakbay at Katoto*

Today's gospel passage is admittedly hard to understand. The Lord uses some kind of an exaggerated way of speaking.

But no, he does not exaggerate. Yes, his language might sound stunning, but he tells us one sure thing. **The Kingdom of Heaven is not going to be earned by mediocrity and by resorting to half measures.**

We know the type of leaders who can't seem to get decided on anything. They are always wishy-washy. They want to please all by accommodating everyone, but end up always not pleasing anybody. Their ultimate concern is to keep the peace, and to maintain what they call law and order. They don't call out the mistakes of anyone, allowing said mistakes to fester and worsen, until all hell breaks loose and it is by then, too late to do anything.

Let us face it. This world as we know it, is steeped in sin, both yours and mine. **Sin is one big form of disorder of the soul that translates into disorder in society.** There's terrorism, for one, and wars and racism, to name just two. There, too, is utter lack of charity between and amongst us, and between nations and peoples. Just look at Ukraine and Gaza, to name just two.

**This disorder is not something we can solve by shallow pacifism, just by not doing anything to**

**maintain the status quo.**

We should make no mistakes about it and to entertain false ideas about it. **There is militancy in our Christian faith. There is an element of struggle.** There is the idea and practice of fighting so that faith becomes effective in ridding the world of sinful disorder. And political correctness simply won't do. Being democratic and diplomatic won't do when it comes to struggling against the forces of evil and darkness.

**Yes, we do need to fight for the good, for what is right, for what leads to life in its fullness.** There is no appeasement in the face of manifest evil.

**Yes, when it comes to struggling for the right, for God and His cause, the Lord has come to bring, not shallow peace, but division.** What division do you belong to? God's or Satan's?

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