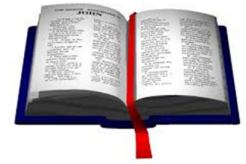




THE WORD



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Reflection: *Widows were especially vulnerable during the time of Christ. Women didn't work because they were expected to do the household chores and take care of the children. So they could only depend on their husbands for their sustenance. When they became widows, they may also expect to receive support from their sons. Otherwise, they have to beg in the streets if they don't have any relatives who are willing to give them provisions. That is why the widow in today's gospel is specially praised by Jesus because even if she would need more the two copper coins that she has, she has decided to give it to the Temple treasury as her offering. Unlike the rich people who give of the excess of their riches the widow gave everything she had. Hopefully, we'll be generous enough to give everything we have too...not necessarily money but maybe our time and energy in reaching out and helping the poor.*

Introduction to the Mass:

SHE HAS PUT EVERYTHING SHE HAD. Jesus had little time for the unholy trinity of conspicuous wealth, self-righteousness and ostentatious piety. He suggests that, when we give alms, we 'do not sound a trumpet before [us]' (Mt. 6:2). According to St. Ambrose, 'God does not consider what one gives but what one keeps.' Could it be that we give too little and keep too much?

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon:
(cf. Psalm 87:3)

Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Greeting

(Sign of the Cross)

P – The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

All – And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

P – Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

P – Lord Jesus, helper of the needy: Lord, have mercy.

All – Lord, have mercy.

P – Christ Jesus, lover of the poor: Christ, have mercy.

All – Christ, have mercy.

P – Lord Jesus, bread of life: 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. **Amen.**

Gloria

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 Fa-

ther, 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.

Collect

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.

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.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading:

[1 Kings 17:10-16]

A reading from the first book of the Kings.

Elijah the Prophet went off to Sidon. And when he reached the city gate, there was a widow gathering sticks; addressing her he said, 'Please bring a little water in a vessel for me to drink.' She was setting off to bring it when he called her. 'Please' he said, 'bring me a scrap of bread in your hand.' 'As the Lord your God lives,' she replied, 'I have no baked bread, but only a handful of meal in a jar and a little oil in a jug; I am just gathering a stick or two and prepare this for myself and my son to eat, and then we shall die.' But Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid, go and do as you have said; but first make a little scone of it for me and bring it to me, and then make some for yourself and for your son. For thus the Lord speaks, the God of Israel:

"Jar of meal shall not be spent, jug of oil shall not be emptied, before the day when the Lord sends rain on the face of the earth."

The woman went and did as Elijah told her and they ate the food, she, himself and her son. The jar of meal was not spent nor the jug of oil emptied, just as the Lord has foretold through Elijah.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

[Psalm 145]

R: Praise the Lord, my soul!

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. **(R)**

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. **(R)**

The Lord 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:

[Hebrews 9:24-28]

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

It is not as though Christ had entered a man-made sanctuary which was only modelled on the real one; but it was heaven itself, so that he could appear in the actual presence of God on our behalf. And he does not have to offer himself again and again, like the high priest going into the sanctuary year after year with the blood that is not his own, or else he would have had to suffer over and over again since the world began. Instead of that, he has made his appearance once and for all, now at the end of the last age, to do away with sin by sacrificing himself. Since men only die once, and after that comes judgement, so Christ, too, offers himself

only once to take the faults of many on himself, and when he appears a second time, it will not be to deal with sin but to reward with salvation to those who are waiting for him.

The Word of the Lord.

All – Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

[Matthew 5:3]

Alleluia, alleluia!

Happy the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!
Alleluia!

Gospel:

[Mark 12:28-34]

**short form 12:41-44*

P – The Lord be with you.

All – And with your spirit.

P – A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

All – Glory to you, O Lord

In his teaching Jesus said, Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

**He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor*

widow has put more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

P – The Gospel of the Lord.

All – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

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, (*all 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 Fa-

ther, 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 – Knowing the Lord's gracious love for us, we pray. For every petition let our response be:

R – Lord, hear our prayer.

C – For those who share our faith around the world, let us pray to the Lord. (**R**)

C – For government leaders and all who provide support services to the needy, let us pray to the Lord. (**R**)

C – For the unemployed, those who cannot work, and those who have no shelter, let us pray to the Lord. (**R**)

C – For all here at our celebration and for all who seek God, let us pray to the Lord. (**R**)

C – For the repose of the souls of the faithful departed, [*especially, may mention name/s here*], let us pray to the Lord.

P – Lord, you have been generous with us. Everything we have is a gift from you. Help us to be generous with others. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

P – Amen.



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

P – Pray, brothers and sisters...

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

Look with favour, we pray, O Lord, upon the sacrificial gifts offered here, that, celebrating in mystery the Passion of your Son, we may honour it with loving devotion. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface

(Ordinary Time VIII)

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.

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, when your children were scattered afar by sin, through the Blood of your Son and the power of the Spirit, you gathered them again to yourself, that a people, formed as one by the unity of the Trinity, made the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Spirit,

might, to the praise of your manifold wisdom, be manifest as the Church.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels, we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

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.

Acclamation

P – The mystery of faith.

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

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All – Our Father...

P – Deliver us, Lord...

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

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(kneel)

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

[cf. Psalm 22:1 – 2]

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

Prayer after Communion

P – Let us pray

Nourished by this sacred gift, O Lord, we give you thanks and beseech your mercy, that, by the pouring forth of your Spirit, the grace of integrity may endure in those your heavenly power has entered. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

CONCLUDING RITES

P – The Lord be with you.

A – And with your spirit.

P – May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

All – Amen.

Dismissal

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

All – Thanks be to God.



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