

Suggested Opening Song: All Are Welcome, #142

In today's first reading, we hear the LORD tell Isaiah, "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." Two and a half millennia later, this house of worship, along with hundreds of thousands of others like it around the world, continues to be a house of prayer for all peoples. In a spirit of Christian hospitality, we welcome everyone who comes here to pray in this holy place. Together we lift our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving to our loving and welcoming God.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 142

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 as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he 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.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 10

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

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

Opening Prayer:

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 and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 72

A reading from the Book of Isaiah

Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

Thus says the LORD: Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed. The foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, ministering to him, loving the name of the LORD, and becoming his servants—all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable 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 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16

R/. O God, let all the nations praise you!

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May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us.
So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation. **R/.**

May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity;
the nations on the earth you guide. **R/.**

May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you!
May God bless us and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Brothers and sisters: I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order to make my race 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?

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Matthew 15: 21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- When Herod ordered the mass murder of Jewish male babies to prevent a potential usurper to his kingship, Mary and Joseph fled with the infant Jesus to Egypt. They crossed a boundary between nations to save their child. In today's Gospel, a Gentile woman asks a Jewish prophet to save her child. She crosses the boundaries between their faiths and their cultures. Jesus himself had come to Tyre and Sidon—pagan territory—to spread the Good News outside Judea. All of them cross boundaries to save the life or lives of those they love.
- Matthew's Gospel was written primarily for a Jewish and Jewish Christian audience, as indicated by the frequent explicit references that link Jesus with David, the covenant with the Chosen People, and Israel. Therefore, it would make sense that Matthew would have Jesus say, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24). This statement is not found in any of the other Gospels. Inconsistent as it is with what he recorded Jesus saying at the end of his Gospel—"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19)—it reflects Matthew's primary intention. He may have hoped that Jesus' praise of this Gentile woman's faith, after he had initially spurned her and explicitly excluded her from his mission, may drive "the lost sheep of the house of Israel" to Christ out of jealousy, much as Paul hoped around the same time.
- Just last Sunday we heard Jesus reprove Peter for his lack of faith when he attempted to walk on the water to him. Today we hear him praise the Canaanite woman for her powerful faith. Both Peter and the woman assert their faith in the Lord initially, but Peter lapses into doubt while the woman refuses to give up. Peter loses his faith when he needs it most while the woman perseveres in her faith despite repeated denials. In this interaction with her, Jesus is teaching his disciples the importance of a faith strong enough to persist through obstacles and doubts.

Question of the Week

When have I felt morally justified in crossing boundaries and how persistent did I need to be to do so?

Prayer of the Faithful:

May God's face shine upon us as we offer prayers for ourselves and for all of God's children around the world.

- For the Church, that we may reach out with the good news of the gospel to all peoples in a spirit of love, generosity, and humility, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That leaders around the world may strive to serve all the peoples of their nations, ensuring that those with historically less power are treated as well as all others, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For people of all religions in the Holy Land, that they may enjoy the freedom to worship freely and live in peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all those who have asked us to remember them in our prayers, and for those who have no one to pray for them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That our faith may be strengthened to the extent of the Canaanite woman's faith, so that we may be confident that our deepest needs will be fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

God of all, you sent your Son to save all peoples, giving us all the opportunity to be welcomed into your loving embrace. Have mercy on us all and grant the prayers we offer, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 176

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

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.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

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 coheirs in heaven.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us, ☩ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: Sent Forth by God's Blessings, #199