

Year of
Consecrated Life



23 August 2015

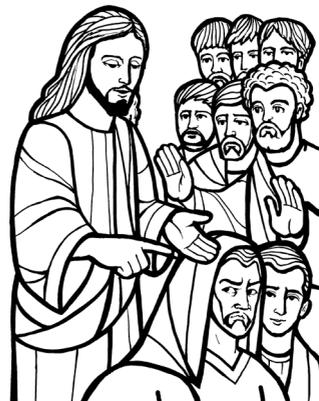
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

Making the Right Choice

There comes a time in our life when we have to make important choices – choices that may have a repercussion on our state of life, our profession or work at hand, our plans and goals. The most fundamental choice concerns our relationship with Jesus Christ. We are constantly challenged to choose between faithfulness to his teachings and the allurements of the hedonistic world in which we are immersed. This is a choice that demands both wisdom and generosity. Wisdom leads us to stand by Jesus. Generosity enables us to pay the price for choosing to follow Jesus.

May today's readings and Eucharist in which we participate lead us to make our own Peter's humble statement: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Greeting

P –Blessed be Jesus who teaches us to remain faithful to the truth. May his grace and peace be with you all!

All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –As we prepare to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries, let us pause for a moment and reflect briefly on the sincerity of our faith and the purity of our heart. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you challenge us to believe in your word even when we do not understand it fully. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you were deserted by many of your disciples. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you alone have the words of eternal 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.

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!

Collect *(Opening Prayer)*

P –O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found.

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.

All –**Amen!**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading

Jos 24:1-2.15-17.18

Joshua gathers the 12 tribes at Shechem for the renewal of the

Covenant with the Lord which was first sealed at Sinai. This is a unique opportunity, for him and all the people, to proclaim their allegiance to the Lord.

R –A proclamation from the Book of Joshua

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers.

When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: “If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve: the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

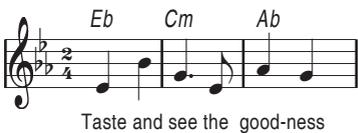
But the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods. For it was the Lord, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along all our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 34*

R –Taste and see the goodness of the Lord!

R. M. Velez



* I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad. **R.**

* The Lord has eyes for the just, and ears for their cry. The Lord confronts the evildoers, to destroy remembrance of them from the earth. **R.**

* When the just cry out, the Lord hears them, and from all their distress he rescues them. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; and those who are crushed in spirit he saves. **R.**

* Many are the troubles of the just one, but out of them all the Lord delivers him. He watches over all his bones; not one of them shall be broken. **R.**

2nd Reading *Eph 5:21-32*

St. Paul presents the relationship between husband and wife with reference to the self-sacrificing love of Christ. It is this selfless love which transforms the family institution into the “Church of the home” and every family into a “Eucharistic family.”

R –A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the Church, he himself the savior of the body. As the Church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the Church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the Church, because we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Your words, Lord, are spirit and life. You have the words of everlasting life.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel

Jn 6:60-69

Jesus has just concluded his discourse on the “Bread of Life.” Faith in him and the reception of his body and blood remain the indispensable conditions to enjoy eternal life, but many in his audience are not able to meet these demands.

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P –A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to John

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Many of Jesus’ disciples who were listening said, “This saying is hard; who can accept it?”

Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, “Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father.”

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to

leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

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

Homily

Profession of Faith (Nicene 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, 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—Jesus is a demanding leader, and the mystery of the Eucharist challenges our inclination to accept only what we understand. Aware of our weakness, we implore:

All—Faithful God, keep us faithful to you!

C —That the Church, under the leadership of the successor of Peter, may always remain faithful to her Covenant with the Lord, let us pray! **R.**

C —That the Christians who are tempted to follow the bad example of dishonest and immoral people may be mindful of their baptismal commitments, let us pray! **R.**

C —That husbands and wives, through a life of faithful love and generosity, may witness to the love that binds Christ and the Church, let us pray! **R.**

C —That those who do not believe in the sacramental presence of Christ in the Eucharist may put aside their rationalistic views and accept with humility this teaching of Christ, let us pray! **R.**

C —That all of us may remain faithful to Jesus, even when many reject his teaching and leave the Church, let us pray! **R.**

C —Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (Pause)
Let us pray! **R.**

P —Lord of all truth and all consolation, even if everybody else should abandon you on account of your demands, we shall never stop adoring, loving and serving you, for you alone have the words of eternal life, and live and reign for ever and ever.

All—Amen!



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 —O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption

through the one sacrifice offered once for all, bestow graciously on us, we pray, the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface VI

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 in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal.

For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration, we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy . . .

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again!



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. (2x)

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

Communion

P –This is Jesus, our faithful Savior, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his supper.

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.)

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, says the Lord, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Prayer after Communion

P –Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—**Amen!**

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All—**And with your spirit!**

P –May the blessing of almighty God: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit descend upon you and remain with you for ever.

All—**Amen!**

P –Go in peace to serve the Lord in faithfulness and love.

All—**Thanks be to God!**

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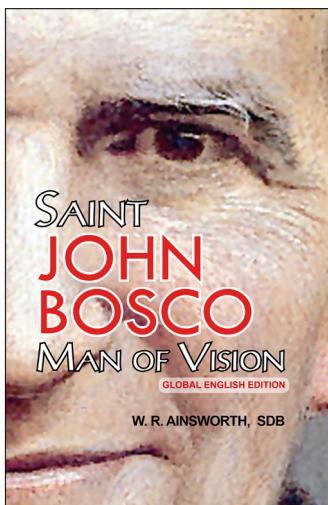
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