



EUCHALETTE

26 June 2016

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

FOLLOWING JESUS WITHOUT REGRETS

This Sunday, the First Reading and the Gospel present to us examples of exceptional callings, which require a radical generosity. This obviously applies only to those whom God calls to one form or other of consecrated life. All of us, however, as disciples of Christ, are expected to make him our Number 1 and to imitate him in his detachment from material comforts and his single-mindedness in doing the will of the Father.

This is what we are called to do, day by day, in the fulfillment of the duties of our particular state of life. In this way, following the teaching of St. Paul, we will be using the freedom which Christ earned for us, not to commit sin but to serve our neighbor the best way we can. This is how we contribute to the creation of a civilization of life and love.

In this Eucharistic celebration, let us ask God's help to be faithful to such a commitment.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

All peoples, clap your hands. Cry to God with shouts of joy!

Greeting

P –Blessed be the Lord Jesus who set us free from the enslavement of sin at the cost of his life. 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 call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you set us free, but we sometimes use our freedom to offend you. Lord, have mercy!

All—**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you gave us examples of forgiveness toward those who rejected you, but we often give in to impulses of vengefulness. Christ, have mercy!

All—**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you chose to live in poverty, but we constantly crave for material comforts as if they were the most important thing in 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 through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.

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 *1Kgs 19:16.19-21*
Toward the end of his life, under God's instruction, Elijah chose Elisha as his associate and eventually his successor. Elisha accepted God's invitation and readily left everything to follow his new master.

R –A proclamation from the First Book of Kings

The Lord said to *Elijah*: “You shall anoint Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, as prophet to succeed you.”

Elijah set out and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat, as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen; he was following the twelfth. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him.

Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, “Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and I will follow you.” Elijah answered, “Go back! Have I done anything to you?” Elisha left him and, taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them; he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh, and gave it to his people to eat. Then Elisha left and followed Elijah as his attendant.

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

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 16*

R —*You are my inheritance, O Lord!*

R. M. Velez

You are my in- he---ri-tance,
O Lord!

* **Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge; I say to the Lord, “My Lord are you. O Lord, my allotted portion and my cup, you it is who hold fast my lot.”** **R.**

* **I bless the Lord who counsels me; even in the night my heart exhorts me. I set the Lord ever before me; with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed.** **R.**

* **Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices, my body, too, abides in confidence; because you will not abandon my soul to the netherworld, nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo corruption.** **R.**

* **You will show me the path to life, fullness of joys in your presence, the delights at your right hand forever.** **R.**

2nd Reading *Gal 5:1.13-18*
St. Paul clarifies that the freedom given us by Christ is not a license to commit sin, but the unfettered capacity to fulfill the law of love. We exercise this God-given freedom by placing ourselves at the service of our neighbor.

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

Brothers and sisters:

For freedom, Christ set us free; so stand firm and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.

For you were called for freedom, brothers and sisters. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love. For the whole law is fulfilled in one statement, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you go on biting and devouring one another, beware that you are not consumed by one another.

I say, then: live by the Spirit and you will certainly not gratify the desire of the flesh. For the flesh has desires against the Spirit, and the

Spirit against the flesh; these are opposed to each other, so that you may not do what you want. But if you are guided by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

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

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!
“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life.”
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 9:51-62*
Today Jesus teaches his disciples patience and tolerance. He also reminds them that they ought to follow the Teacher's example, even by being totally detached from their nearest relatives.

P —The Lord be with you!
All—**And with your spirit!**
P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All—**Glory to you, O Lord!**

When the days for Jesus' being taken up were fulfilled, he resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem, and he sent messengers ahead of him.

On the way they entered a Samaritan village to prepare for his reception there, but they would not welcome him because the destination of his journey was Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, “Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?” Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they journeyed to another village.

As they were proceeding on their journey, someone said to Jesus, “I will follow you wherever you go.” Jesus

GLOSSARY: • **Elijah:** A prophet who lived in the 9th century B.C. (before the birth of Christ) at the time when the evil King Ahab and the even worse Queen Jezebel ruled over Israel. Elijah endured many hardships on account of his faithfulness to the Lord. He was carried away by a fiery chariot, and up to the time of Jesus there was the expectation that he would return before the coming of the Messiah.

• **Samaritans:** They were the descendants of foreign groups who had been settled in Samaria after the fall of the Northern Kingdom (720 B.C.). The Samaritans were despised by the Jews and were considered heretics because they had mixed together the worship of Yahweh with that of foreign gods.

answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."

And to another he said, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." To him Jesus said, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom 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, (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 —All of us have experienced the difficulty of being faithful disciples at all times. Let us, then, ask the Lord's help for ourselves and all our brothers and sisters, saying:

All—Lord, help us follow you!

C —For the whole Church, the community of the disciples of Christ: May she follow her Master faithfully in spite of all temptations to compromise. Let us pray!

C —For the leaders of the Church at all levels: May they always follow Jesus' example of total detachment from comforts and material possessions. Let us pray!

C —For all those who are called to follow Jesus more closely: May they have the generosity to respond to his call and persevere in the good work. Let us pray!

C —For those who are tempted to misuse their freedom: May they remember that Christ set us free from the slavery of sin so that we may use all our energies to do good. Let us pray!

C —For our community: May we be hospitable and kind to all, rejecting prejudices and any form of discrimination. Let us pray!

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

P —Lord Jesus, grant us the grace to overcome our uncertainties and lukewarmness, and to value your call to follow you more than anything else on earth. You who 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 God, who graciously accomplish the effects of your mysteries, grant, we pray, that the deeds by which we serve you may be worthy of these sacred gifts.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface VII

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 you so loved the world that in your mercy you sent us the Redeemer, to live like us in all things but sin, so that you might love in us what you loved in your Son, by whose obedience we have been restored to those gifts of yours that, by sinning, we had lost in disobedience.

And so, Lord, with all the Angels and Saints, we, too, give you thanks, as in exultation 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!



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.)

O Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, that the world may believe that you have sent me, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

P –May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received fill us with life, O Lord, we pray, so that, bound to you in lasting charity, we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—**Amen!**

CONCLUDING RITES



P –The Lord be with you.

All—**And with your spirit!**

P –Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing. *(Pause)*
May the Lord fill you with His spirit and guide you in all your ways.

All—**Amen!**

P –May He strengthen your faith so that you may follow him more faithfully.

All—**Amen!**

P –May He reward you generously even for the simplest acts of kindness toward your neighbor.

All—**Amen!**

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

All—**Amen!**

P –Go in peace to serve the Lord with generous faithfulness.

All—**Thanks be to God!**

FOR THE BRAVE ONLY

Jesus was aware of the dramatic end awaiting him in Jerusalem and had already informed his disciples about it in no ambiguous terms. (See *Lk 9:44*.) Had he followed his survival instinct, he would have delayed his going to Jerusalem as much as possible, and actually, avoided it altogether. And all his disciples would surely have approved of it . . .

But **Jesus** had other priorities. **He had come to earth not to follow man's natural instincts, but to do the will of the Father.** (See *Jn 4:34*.) He knew that the Father wants the salvation of all men. Christ's sacrifice would be the high price he would have to pay in order that all humans might be freed from the slavery of sin and enjoy the happiness of eternal life. Jesus knew all this and, in his love for the Father and us, embraced this plan with enthusiasm and "firmly resolved to proceed toward Jerusalem." (See *Lk 9:51*.)

Such a heroic determination not only bewildered the weaklings and the cowards, but also attracted souls open to the charm of virtue and selflessness. Jesus' wonderful doctrine and personality attracted generous people like a powerful magnet. "I will be your follower wherever you go," volunteered some. (See *Lk 9:57.61*.) He himself invited others to follow him. (See *Lk 9:59*.) But, lest they felt "cheated" in the process, he was quick to tell each of them the high price to be paid by all those who volunteered or accepted to follow him. **No less than a total detachment from what ordinary people hold dear** – material comforts, possessions and family ties (see *Lk 9:58.60*) – **together with a brave perseverance in spite of all difficulties and temptations to backslide (see Lk 9:62), are demanded of those who wish "to follow Jesus."**

Such radical generosity is absolutely unthinkable in a person who does not love Christ and does not believe in him. **Faith and love are the indispensable prerequisites to be a disciple and to be able to endure all the trials that discipleship entails.**

Such generosity, of course, will receive its full reward in heaven, but it will not be without an immediate reward even in this life: the enjoyment of *real freedom* – freedom from any yoke of slavery (see *Gal 5:1*) and, most especially, *freedom to serve the Lord with ever greater dedication*. The disciples of Christ, in their poverty and detachment, will enjoy the same freedom of their Master. They will thus be able to share fully also in his destiny and mission of service to others (see *Gal 5:13-14*) – a service that can reach the point of offering one's life for them, out of love, and with love, as Jesus did.



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