



EUCHALETTE

4 February 2018 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

PRO-LIFE SUNDAY

God Is Close to the Brokenhearted

In a world full of suffering and illnesses, Jesus was the most powerful and welcome “total Healer.” His presence brought hope and salvation to all the afflicted, even as it meant defeat for the Evil One.

The “healing journey,” which began on the trail of the proclamation of the Gospel two thousand years ago, continues today in the whole world. Christ, the compassionate Healer, continues his mission through the Church and all the people of goodwill who care for the sick and the afflicted. Wherever human beings do their best to relieve the pains of their neighbor, Christ is present and active in them as instruments of his healing love. We should remember this especially today as we observe “Pro-Life Sunday” and pray for all those whose lives and dignity are threatened because of abortion, euthanasia, and other anti-life policies and practices.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Greeting

P –The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All –**And with your spirit!**

Penitential Act

P –Coming together as God’s family, with confidence let us ask the Lord’s forgiveness, for he is full of gentleness and compassion. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you came to share the frailty of our human nature. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you came to heal our ills and sufferings.

Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you came to preach the good news to the poor. 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 –Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection.

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 Jb 7:1-4,6-7

Sufferings and frustrations are part and parcel of human life. Even good people suffer as the dramatic story of Job confirms. Unable to understand the cause of his trials, the poor man drew the pessimistic conclusions we read in today’s passage.

R – A proclamation from the Book of Job

Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of a hireling? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me.

If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.

My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope.

Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 147

R —Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted!

R. M. Velez

* Praise the Lord, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him. The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers. R.

* He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name. R.

* Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom, there is no limit. The Lord sustains the lowly; the wicked he casts to the ground. R.

2nd Reading 1 Cor 9:16-19,22-23

Here is a beautiful synthesis of how St. Paul viewed his apostolic preaching and all that he did for the sake of the Gospel.

R — A proclamation from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship.

What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

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

Gospel Acclamation Mt 8:17

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ took away our infirmities and bore our diseases.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:29-39

Jesus was constantly available to bring about the good of others, especially the sick and those tormented by the devil. In today's Gospel, St. Mark emphasizes this trait by giving us a revealing tableau of a typical day in the Lord's life.

P —The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All—Glory to you, O Lord!

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her, and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to Jesus all who were ill or possessed by

demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."

So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

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 glori-

fied, 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 –Let us approach with confidence the throne of Divine Mercy and present our petitions to the Lord in the firm assurance that he will hear our prayer. Let us all say:

All–Lord, graciously hear us!

C –For the universal Church who continues through the centuries the healing mission of Christ: May she do so with faithful generosity. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Holy Father and all those involved in the preaching of the Good News: May they see the fruits of their ministry in the lives of their flocks. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For doctors, nurses and all other people involved in the healing ministry: May they see Jesus in their patients and treat them with reverent care. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all the sick and the aged: May they find in their relatives and the rest of the community the loving care that will enable them to bear their crosses with dignity and hope. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the members of our community: May we learn from Jesus to be patient with all and be full of zeal for the preaching of the Good News. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For all people: May the Holy Spirit instill in us respect for the sacredness of human life from the moment of conception until death, so that we may support all those who struggle to uphold this supreme value. Let us pray! **R.**

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

P –Lord God, help us to imitate “the Man for Others” who bends with compassion over those who

are suffering in whatever form. May we learn from him to be close to the brokenhearted and be for them as many instruments of Your healing love. 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 Lord our God, who once established these created things to sustain us in our frailty, grant, we pray, that they may become for us now the Sacrament of eternal life.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!

Preface V

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 laid the foundations of the world and have arranged the changing of times and seasons; you formed man in your own image and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder, to rule in your name over all you have made and for ever praise you in your mighty works, through Christ our Lord.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration, 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–Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.



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 . . .

Communion

P –This is the Lord Jesus, the light of all peoples, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are invited to the Banquet of the Kingdom.

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.)

Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Prayer after Communion

P –O God, who have willed that we be partakers in the one Bread and the one Chalice, grant us, we pray, so to live that, made one in Christ, we may joyfully bear fruit for the salvation of the world.

Through Christ our Lord.

All–Amen!



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 grant you good health that you may contribute to the welfare of your family and the rest of the community.

All–Amen!

P –May the Lord give you a compassionate heart toward all those who suffer, that you may become for them signs and instruments of

His healing love.

All–Amen!

P –May the Lord give you a keen understanding of the sacredness of all life, and especially human life. May He enable you to protect and nurture it for the good of all mankind.

All–Amen!

P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the

Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All–Amen!

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

All–Thanks be to God!



HEALINGS UNLIMITED

One does not need to be pessimistic to conclude that there is so much suffering in the world. It is a reality as old as mankind itself; a reality as varied as the gradations of gray . . . We are afflicted by moral, emotional, spiritual, and physical suffering . . . All these forms of suffering make life miserable – a veritable “Way of the Cross”! Job had all the reasons to complain. (*See today’s First Reading.*)

Of all types of suffering, the most striking is usually the physical one. It is always a pitiful sight to see cripples, lepers, persons devoured by cancer, people who are blind, maimed, or immobilized for life on their beds or mats . . . **In spite of all the progress of modern medicine, all those struck by sickness still experience a feeling of helplessness and humiliation.** The many forms of suffering are still with us, and for all we know, they are here to stay, in ever-renewed and baffling forms . . .

When he came to share our human condition, Jesus accepted suffering as a natural consequence of the Incarnation and thereby he showed that he was a human being through and through. But he was “a man with a mission” – the mission to redeem and save every human being from all that degrades, oppresses and disfigures him or her. That was why, part of his mission was to relieve as many as he could from any suffering, and espe-

cially the one inflicted by demonic possessions. **Jesus knew that the ultimate cause of all suffering was the devil. That was why, he cast out devils as an integral part of his healing and saving mission.**

But **suffering is still with us, even after the coming of Jesus, as a perpetual reminder of the frailty of the human condition in the world. It is also a sign that the Reign of God has not yet come in its fullness.** It is only in the New Jerusalem that “there shall be no more death or mourning, crying or pain . . .”(Rv 21:4).

The healings performed by Jesus are signs that the Reign of God has already been inaugurated and that the salvation that Jesus proclaims will surely come in its fullness when God’s Kingdom reaches its completion.

As Christians, we are not only people who have been mercifully healed by Jesus. **We are also sharers in his mission as “the healer” of humankind.** As such, we, too, are called to show concern for the ailments afflicting mankind, and to do our best to reduce them. **It is also our mission to cast out the devil from our own lives and the lives of others.** This commitment of ours will be one of the most effective proclamations of the Good News. It will be one of the clear signs that the Kingdom of God is ever more making inroads in this pain-ridden world of ours.



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