

EUCHALETTE

11 February 2018

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

NO OUTCASTS IN CHRIST'S HOME

More than in our society, the lepers in the time of Jesus were condemned to a terrible rejection by the rest of society. Unlike all the people in his time, Jesus let the lepers approach him and he healed many of them, renewing them in body and soul.

There are many types of "leprosy" in our society: physical leprosy, handicaps, drug addiction, extreme poverty, and ignorance . . . As disciples of the Lord, we are expected to show to the many outcasts in our midst the same concern and practical love which he showed to the lepers of his time. May this Eucharistic celebration bring us ever closer to the divine Model and instill in all of us an active compassion toward those who are marginalized.



INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

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

Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

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 –The Lord Jesus is the only one who can heal us from the leprosy of sin. With humble trust, let us ask him to cleanse us from all our sins. *(Pause)*

P –Lord Jesus, you approached and healed many lepers in your time. Lord, have mercy!

All –**Lord, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, your heart is

full of compassion for all those who suffer and are rejected. Christ, have mercy!

All –**Christ, have mercy!**

P –Lord Jesus, you instituted the Sacrament of Penance for the remission of sins. 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 teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true, grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.

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 *Lv 13:1-2.44-46*

In ancient times, leprosy was considered contagious and therefore, a danger to the health of the community which had no medical resources. That was the reason behind the harsh instruction contained in today's passage.

R – A proclamation from the Book of Leviticus

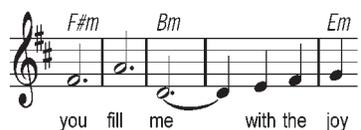
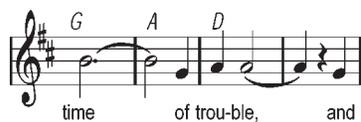
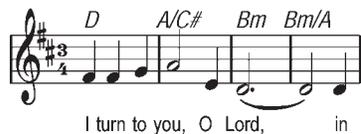
The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”

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

Responsorial Psalm Ps 32

R – *I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation!*

R. M. Velez



* Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the Lord imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

R.

* Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered

not. I said, “I confess my faults to the Lord,” and you took away the guilt of my sin. **R.**

* Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart. **R.**

2nd Reading 1 Cor 10:31-11:1

Here is a brief, all-encompassing summary of what our basic attitude and behavior toward God and neighbor should be.

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

Brothers and sisters:

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

The Word of the Lord!

All – Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation Lk 7:16

All – Alleluia! Alleluia!

A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel Mk 1:40-45

Jesus’ compassion for a leper and his healing intervention symbolize the salvation he brings to all those affected by the leprosy of sin.

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!**

A leper came to Jesus and, kneeling down, begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Then, warning him sternly, Jesus dismissed him at once.

He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.”

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report everywhere so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

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 –Encouraged by the readiness with which Jesus granted the request of the leper in today’s Gospel passage, let us confidently present to him our petitions and say together:

All–Lord, graciously hear us!

C –That the community of believers, guided by the example of its leaders, may have for the sick the same active compassion Jesus showed for the lepers of his time, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all the faithful may be as eager to be healed of their spiritual illness as they are eager to be healed of their physical infirmities, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all those involved in the health care ministry may exercise their service not only with professional competence, but also in a spirit of brotherly solidarity, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all those involved in the ministry of spiritual healing may exercise their ministry with the discretion and compassion of Christ, let us pray! **R.**

C –That all of us may always seek to give glory to God in everything we think, say, and do, let us pray! **R.**

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

P –Lord Jesus, Divine Physician, make us whole and strong so that, in turn, we, too, may become instruments of your healing love. You who live and save for ever and ever.

All–Amen!

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



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 –May this oblation, O Lord,

we pray, cleanse and renew us and may it become for those who do your will the source of eternal reward.

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 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.

COMMUNION RITE



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 –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.*)

They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Prayer after Communion

P –Having fed upon these heavenly delights, we pray, O Lord, that we may always long for that food by which we truly live.

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 God of all consolation make you experience the warmth of His embrace and the joy of His acceptance!

All–Amen!

P –May He heal you from all your ills and hurts and give you abundance of health and strength!

All–Amen!

P –May He make you messengers of His healing love to all those you meet in your life!

All–Amen!

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

All–Amen!

P –Go in the peace of Christ.

All–Thanks be to God!

JESUS, THE LEPROSY BUSTER

AIDS is the terror of so many people these days. Those affected by it are often avoided and condemned to isolation. This rejection by society makes the suffering of the AIDS victims even bitter. And one can only wish that such a terrible illness never existed . . .

In the time of Jesus, leprosy was one of the most dreaded misfortunes that could befall a person; it was the AIDS of those days! While other types of patients were pitied and attended to, lepers were avoided by their own relatives. They were forbidden to approach a healthy person. If they ever tried to do so, they were chased away with stones . . . They had to live in caves and ravines, away from ordinary human settlements, cut off from any form of social life. (See today's First Reading.)

Leprosy meant hell already in this life. A person in an advanced state of leprosy was a terrible sight. People turned away their sight from them in horror.

Jesus did not follow the prevailing attitude toward lepers. He wanted everyone to have life, and life to the full (see Jn 10:10). He had come in a special manner for the sick and the outcast, and he remained faithful to his mission. Even when the most outcast of all – the lepers – approached him, he did not back off in horror. Not only did he welcome them, but even “stretched out his hand and touched them.” (See today's Gospel.) **The merciful love that Jesus felt for the man featured in today's Gospel was stronger than the horror which the purulent limbs most likely aroused in him as a man.** Jesus' power, pity, and love had their day. Thanks to them, a man was cured. A man was saved. And he and all the others gave praise to God.

Leprosy is no longer so widespread and dreaded in our time. Modern medicine has done a lot to curb and cure it. But another

type of leprosy – **the spiritual leprosy called sin – is still with us. It affects not only a few but all humans.** It affects all of us. Its effects in us are even more destructive than leprosy or AIDS.

Surprisingly – and sadly so – many seem unaware of its devastating effects. Others simply deny the existence of sin or call it by other “sanitized” names. Pope Pius XII lamented that **one of the tragedies of our times was the loss of the “sense of sin.”** But ignoring or denying it does not prevent its spread or its destructive effects. If anything, it makes things worse . . . Such is the “strategy” of the devil!

Who will save us from such a plague? No progress in science or technology can offer the cure. Only Jesus can. We, the spiritual lepers of our time, have only one hope: JESUS. The only cure is his merciful LOVE and his GRACE. Our humble prayer is the one of today's Gospel: “Lord if you will to do so, you can cure me!” (Mk 1:40).

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