



16 September 2018

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

## *The Cross, Our Source of Hope and Salvation*

Today's theme reminds us of the duty, which all of us have, to take up our cross and carry it in the footsteps of Christ. This is not something that we do with pleasure, for the cross always entails some degree of suffering and death. We instinctively choose life and tend to enjoy life. And yet, the cross looms large on the horizon of our earthly existence. It may be the cross of sickness, of natural defects, of failures, or of injustices inflicted on us. Or it may be the cross of living out the demands of our faith, as St. James reminds us in today's Second Reading. Or it is the cross of bearing with one another's shortcomings within our own family, in our place of work, in our communities . . . .

In this Eucharist let us ask for the grace to carry our cross with patience and in a spirit of faith, always remembering that the cross is the great solid bridge to heaven.



### **INTRODUCTORY RITES**



#### **Entrance Antiphon**

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

**Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true. Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.**

#### **Greeting**

***P*** –Praise and glory to Jesus who saved us through the blood of his cross. May his grace and peace be with you all!

***All*** –**And with your spirit!**

#### **Penitential Act**

***P*** –As we prepare to celebrate the mystery of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection, let us renew our awareness of our shortcomings and humbly ask the Lord's forgiveness. *(Pause)*

***P*** –Lord Jesus, you redeemed

us at the cost of your life. Lord, have mercy!

***All*** –**Lord, have mercy!**

***P*** –Christ Jesus, you asked your disciples to take up their cross and follow in your footsteps. Christ, have mercy!

***All*** –**Christ, have mercy!**

***P*** –Lord Jesus, you expect us to help our neighbor carry the cross of their trials. 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*** –Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

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 *Is 50:5-9*

*The prophet Isaiah sketches for us a moving picture of the "Suffering Servant" who endures all tortures with sublime patience, trusting only in his innocence and in the Lord's help.*

**R** – A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

The Lord God opens my ear that I may hear. And I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting. The Lord God is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let that man confront me. See, the Lord God is my help; who will prove me wrong?

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

### Responsorial Psalm *Ps 116*

**R** – *I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living!*

*R. M. Velez*



\* I love the Lord because he has heard my voice in supplication, because he has inclined his ear to me the day I called.

**R.**

\* The cords of death encompassed me; the snares of the netherworld seized upon me; I fell into distress and sorrow

and I called upon the name of the Lord, "O Lord, save my life!" **R.**

\* Gracious is the Lord and just; yes, our God is merciful. The Lord keeps the little ones; I was brought low, and he saved me. **R.**

\* For he has freed my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. I shall walk before the Lord in the land of the living. **R.**

### 2nd Reading *Jas 2:14-18*

*In this passage St. James writes the famous sentence: "Faith without works is dead." He thereby emphasizes the necessity that our faith be complemented with corresponding acts of justice and charity.*

**R** – A proclamation from the Letter of James

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him?

If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well," but you do not give them what they need for their bodies, what good is it?

So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead. Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

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

### Gospel Acclamation

**All** – Alleluia! Alleluia!

May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord through which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world.  
Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Gospel *Mk 8:27-35*

*Acting as spokesman for the Twelve, Peter proclaims Jesus' messiahship but strongly rejects the idea that the Messiah will*

*suffer. In his response, Jesus reminds Peter and all of us of the duty to accept God's plan even when it demands self-sacrifice.*

**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!

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ!" Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this Jesus turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and for the sake of the gospel will save it."

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

### Homily

#### Profession of Faith

*(Nicene-Constantinopolitan 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** –Suffering is very much part of our lives. We need the help of God’s grace in order to recognize its function in the process of our salvation. But especially, we need His help to carry our crosses with patience and love. Aware of our weakness, we pray:

**All—Lord, help us bear our cross!**

**C** –That the entire Church may always proclaim the divinity of Jesus to a world that easily stops at his humanity, let us pray! **R.**

**C** –That all Catholic families may always be appreciative of the gift of life and extend their loving care to all their members, especially the children, the elderly and the sick, let us pray! **R.**

**C** –That missionaries all over the world may not be discouraged by rejection and persecution, but may endure them with

patience and trust like Jesus, the Servant of God, let us pray! **R.**

**C** –That the leaders of religious groups and basic ecclesial communities may be at all times an inspiration to the other members, let us pray! **R.**

**C** –That the refugees who have been forced to flee their homelands may have the possibility to return to their native places in dignity and freedom, let us pray! **R.**

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

**P** –Lord Jesus, look with compassion on all those who are suffering, especially those who are suffering for the faith. Grant them and all of us the consolation of your saving presence. You who live and care 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** –Look with favor on our supplications, O Lord, and in your kindness accept your servants’ offerings, that what each has offered to the honor of your name may serve the salvation of all.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All—Amen!**

### Preface IV

**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, al-

mighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For by his birth he brought renewal to humanity’s fallen state, and by his suffering, canceled out our sins; by his rising from the dead, he has opened the way to eternal life, and by ascending to you, O Father, he has unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints, we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:

**All—Holy, holy, holy . . .**

### 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, 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 the Lord Jesus who endured suffering and death for our salvation. He is 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.*)

**The chalice of blessing that we bless is a communion in the Blood of Christ; and the bread that we break is a sharing in the Body of the Lord.**

### Prayer after Communion

*P* –May the working of this heavenly gift, O Lord, we pray, take possession of our minds and bodies, so that its effects, and not our own desires, may always prevail in us.

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, our God give you strength to carry the crosses of your daily life.

*All* –Amen!

*P* –May He make your faith solid and joyful that you may persevere in doing good works.

*All* –Amen!

*P* –May He direct your steps to Himself and show you how to walk in charity and peace.

*All* –Amen!

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

*All* –Amen!

*P* –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

*All* –Thanks be to God!



## THE MYSTERY OF GOD’S MESSIAH

*M*en have plenty of “messiahs” – idealized figures of liberators in whom they concretize their expectations, and the fulfillment of their needs. Often the fruit of the frustrated aspirations of social classes, groups or entire nations, these “messiahs” have always a limited and contingent mission. In the eyes of men, **the signs of their authenticity are their victories. Failure, on the other hand, is the clearest sign of their being “fake messiahs”** . . . Such has always been the pervading mentality. **Such was the idea which most of the Jews had of the Messiah they were expecting.**

Peter’s remonstrance against the prospect of Jesus’ being rejected and put to death by the very authorities of Israel is not just an expression of his sincere love for the Master. It is also a proof of the incompatibility between the foretold sad events and the common expectation about the Messiah.

**A “crucified Messiah” is also the main obstacle found by innumerable people in accepting Jesus as their “Savior,”** as Paul testifies: “We preach Christ crucified – a stumbling block to Jews, and an absurdity to Gentiles . . .” (1 Cor 1:23).

**This difficulty is a reality even in our time.** Jesus is not the sort of “Messiah” that people expect and feel they need. He is not a “so-

cial Messiah,” i.e., one who comes to lead the countries of the Third World to economic independence and prosperity. He is not the one sent to lead the exploited social classes in their struggle for emancipation and justice. **Christ himself, actually, is one of the oppressed and – by human standards – a failure . . .** In him we are faced with the scandal of the apparent “failure of the cross.” What sort of Messiah is Jesus then? He is the “Messiah of God,” the “Holy One of God.”

**He achieves the final goal of mankind’s salvation not through spectacular successes but the humiliation of the Incarnation (see Phil 2:7), all a series of rejections (see Jn 1:11), a dreadful agony and a most shameful death!** These are all facets of a very deep mystery which, if it were the whole story, would be not only incomprehensible but also unacceptable.

**But the mystery of Jesus’ messiahship includes also his Resurrection.** This final facet of the mystery throws light on all that preceded it, and makes them acceptable (though not fully comprehensible!) through the help of God’s grace.

Such is the mystery of Jesus, the “Messiah of God,” our Savior – the mystery of the crucified and risen Christ; the mystery of **life through death** that we experience every day, both around us and in our very selves.



**WORD & LIFE  
PUBLICATIONS**

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. 894-5401; 894-5402; 892-2169 • Telefax: 894-5241 • Website: [www.wordandlife.org](http://www.wordandlife.org)

• E-mail: [marketing@wordandlife.org](mailto:marketing@wordandlife.org); [wordandlifepublications@gmail.com](mailto:wordandlifepublications@gmail.com) • FB: Word & Life Publications

• Editorial Team: Fr. S. Putzu, G. Ramos, J. Domingo, A. Adsuara, V. David, D. Daguio

• Illustrations: A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • Marketing: Fr. B. Nolasco and T. Mojica • Circulation: R. Saldua