



# EUCHALETTE

3 March 2019

8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

## *How to Become Fruit-Bearing Trees*

Today's liturgy invites us to be humble, be concerned about correcting our defects and aiming at what really matters in life: to **BECOME** the sort of person God calls us to be. This means that we must be people who have fully assimilated the values of the Kingdom and constantly endeavor to be "disciples" who reproduce in ourselves, as close as possible, the traits of the Master.

In a world full of superficiality, pretenses, and hypocrisy, – all forms of moral blindness – if we really want to help and guide those who are affected by such blindness, we must rid ourselves of the many specks or logs that impair our moral vision and may even blind us completely. The best way to help our brothers and sisters blinded by sin is for us to become morally sound "trees" that bear abundant fruits of an authentic Christian life. In this Eucharistic celebration let us implore the grace to do just that!



### **INTRODUCTORY RITES**



#### **Entrance Antiphon**

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

**The Lord became my protector. He brought me out to a place of freedom; he saved me because he delighted in me.**

#### **Greeting**

**P** –Blessed be Jesus, the tree that bears fruits of eternal life. May his grace and peace be with you all!

**All** –**And with your spirit!**

#### **Penitential Act**

**P** –My brothers and sisters, to celebrate the sacred mysteries with a purified heart, let us call to mind our sins and ask the Lord for pardon and strength. *(Pause)*

**P** –For the times we have focused our attention on the sins of others rather than our own, Lord, have mercy!

**All** –**Lord, have mercy!**

**P** –For the times we have produced fruits of corruption and unfaithfulness, Christ, have mercy!

**All** –**Christ, have mercy!**

**P** –For the times we have failed to witness to the truth in our words and deeds, 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.

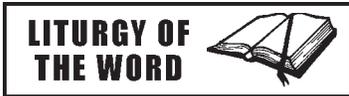
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are 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** –Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion.

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!**



**1st Reading Sir 27:4-7**  
*The wise man Ben Sira reminds us today of the importance of the gift of speech as a means to reveal what we carry in our hearts.*

**R** –A proclamation from the Book of Sirach

When a sieve is shaken, the husks appear; so do a man’s faults when he speaks. As the test of what the potter molds is in the furnace, so in his conversation is the test of a man. The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had; so too does a man’s speech disclose the bent of his mind. Praise no man before he speaks, for it is then that men are tested.

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

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 92**

**R** –*Lord, it is good to give thanks to you!*

*A. Robleza*



Lord, --- it is good to give



thanks to you ---

\* **It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praise to your name, Most High, to proclaim your kindness at dawn and your faithfulness throughout the night.** **R.**

\* **The just man shall flourish like the palm tree, like a**

**cedar of Lebanon shall he grow. They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.** **R.**

\* **They shall bear fruit even in old age; vigorous and sturdy shall they be, declaring how just is the Lord, my Rock, in whom there is no wrong.** **R.**

**2nd Reading 1 Cor 15:54-58**

*St. Paul reminds us that our final resurrection will mark the definitive victory over death and sin, thanks to Christ’s redemptive work, and especially his Resurrection.*

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

When this which is corruptible frame takes on incorruptibility and this which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality, then will the saying of Scripture be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

The sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the law. But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Be steadfast and persevering, my beloved brothers, fully engaged in the work of the Lord. You know that your toil is not in vain when it is done in the Lord.

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

**Gospel Acclamation Phil 2:15.16**

**All–Alleluia! Alleluia!**  
**Shine like lights in the world as you hold on to the word of life.**  
**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Gospel Lk 6:39-45**

*As we continue reading from Jesus’ “Sermon on the Plain,” in this series of sayings he reminds us of the importance of being humble, and of the need that we get rid*

*of our own moral defects if we want to help others to get rid of their own.*

**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!**

Jesus used images in speaking to the disciples: “Can a blind man act as guide to a blind man? Will they not both fall into a ditch? A student is not above his teacher; but every student when he has finished his studies will be on a par with his teacher.

“Why look at the speck in your brother’s eye when you miss the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me remove the speck from your eye,’ yet fail yourself to see the plank lodged in your own? Hypocrite, remove the plank from your own eye first; then you will see clearly enough to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

“A good tree does not produce decayed fruit anymore than a decayed tree produces good fruit. Each tree is known by its yield. Figs are not taken from thornbushes, nor grapes picked from brambles. A good man produces goodness from the good in his heart; an evil man produces evil out of his store of evil. Each man speaks from his heart’s abundance.”

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** –As we gather around the table of the Lord to present to Him our petitions, let us extend our concern to the needs of all mankind and pray:

**All**—Lord, graciously hear us!

**C** –For the whole Church: May she show to the world fruits of holiness and generous solidarity with the weak and the needy. Let us pray! **R**

**C** –For all those tasked to guide others spiritually and morally: May they lead by example and do their very best to eliminate their own defects. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** – For all parents and educators: May they be ever more aware of their duty to become an inspiration to their children and students. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** – For the victims of natural calamities and human cruelty: May the solidarity of all

the members of the community assist those victims generously. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For those committed to bring the nation out of the present economic and moral crisis: May the Lord strengthen them in their resolve and reward their efforts with success. Let us pray! **R.**

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

**P** –Lord of all consolation, keep us ever close to You as we endeavor to bear fruits of honesty and generosity in the ordinary events of our lives. 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** –O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name and count our oblations as signs of our desire to serve you with devotion, we ask of your mercy that what you grant as the source of merit may also help us attain merit's 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**—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 the Lord Jesus, 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 Communion Hymn is sung.)*

**I will sing to the Lord who has been bountiful with me, sing psalms to the name of the Lord Most High.**

### Prayer after Communion

**P** –Nourished by your saving gifts, we beseech your mercy, Lord, that by this same Sacrament with which you feed us in the present age, you may make us partakers of life eternal.

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 radiance of God’s Word guide your steps in the way of an authentic Christian life.

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May the Lord protect you from all dangers and prosper your honest undertak-

ings.

**All–Amen!**

**P** –May He free you from all anxiety and strengthen your hearts in His love.

**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!**

## HOW TO BECOME WHAT GOD WANTS US TO BE

by Jess P. Balon

**W**hat makes us what we are is not our income, our physical strength, our success in business, and not even our IQ or our EQ. **What makes us what we are is our “heart” – the “core” of our personality, the inner sanctuary where we decide what sort of person we are striving to become.** This means: our value system, our deep dispositions, our ideals, and our priorities in life.

But how do we know what is inside the “heart” of a person? How can we know whether our “heart” is fully part of the Kingdom of God or has been already laid waste by the hordes of the evil one? The first means to ascertain this is **our WORDS.** Whether spoken or written, our words are what enables us to express our internal feelings, our intentions, or needs, our plans and aspirations . . . .

Our experience, however, teaches us that there are people who use their words to hide the truth rather than to manifest it. We call these people liars and cheaters. Their lack of sincerity in speech is a sign that their heart is no longer close to the truth – no longer close

to God. But sooner or later the truth is going to come out and the ugliness of the reality of what is nested in the liars’ and cheaters’ hearts will be revealed in all its misery.

**But it is especially our ACTIONS that reveal what is deep inside us.** Just as each tree is known by its yield, so is every person known by his or her actions. That is why Jesus stated that **“a good man produces goodness from the good in his heart; while an evil man produces evil out of his store of evil.”** (See today’s Gospel.)

People can lie also through their actions. They do certain things in order to appear to be good, while their hearts are full of evil intents. Jesus called these people frauds and hypocrites, for **their good actions are only a pretense that has no corresponding disposition in their hearts. Their external good actions are like beautiful masks used to hide a disfigured face.** Their hypocrisy, too, cannot conceal for ever their spiritual misery and corruption.

Sooner or later they will reveal their true colors. But even when the pretense may contin-

ue indefinitely, **God cannot be cheated.** His looks penetrate deep beyond appearances and clever pretenses. What He wants is not just “nice words” and “seemingly good actions.” He wants that these be rooted in a “heart” that is imbued with the **VALUES** that those words and actions are meant to manifest externally. **God wants “substance” and reality, rather than a vain show.**

This is why our main concern should be not so much to say good words and perform good actions, but **to have a “good heart” – A HEART that is constantly set on seeking the Kingdom of God and its demands.** This is the basic condition to become a “good person” – to be a “good tree” that will constantly bear “good fruit.”

Once the right foundation is in place, we will be well on our way toward attaining a resemblance with our Teacher, Jesus Christ! Having removed the big “plank” from our eyes, we will be able to lead the “blind” and attempt in all honesty to remove the “specks” that are in the eyes of our neighbor. Then will we be able to make the world a better place to live in.



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