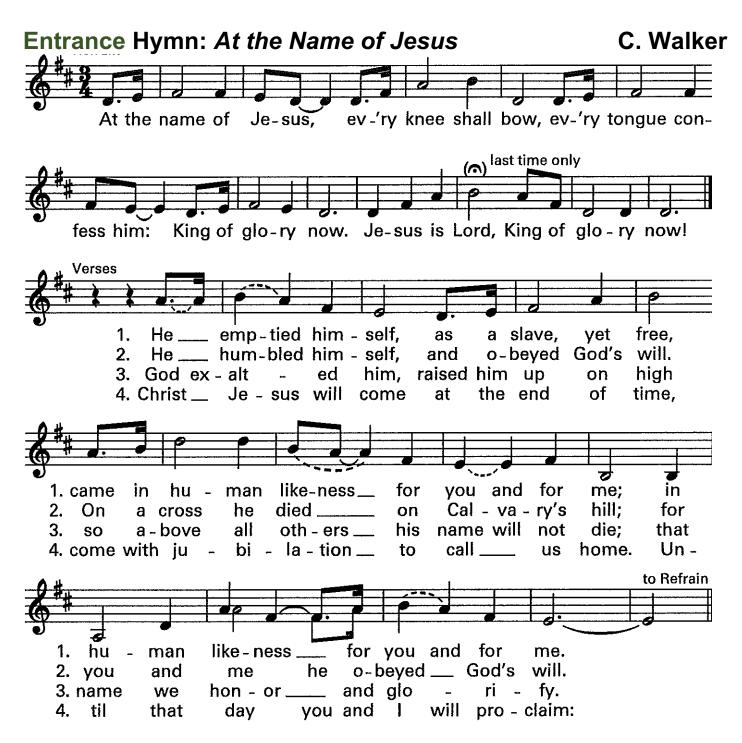


Lake Forest, IL Monsignor Robert Dempsey, Pastor



Refrain text: Caroline Maria Noel, 1817-1877. Verses text based on Philippians 2. Music and verses text © 1995, Christopher Walker. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved. Used with permission under license # A7040220

Penitential Rite

Glory to God

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

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Thus says the Lord: You say, "The Lord's way is not fair!" Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair? When someone virtuous turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if he turns from the wickedness he has committed, he does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life; since he has turned away from all the sins that he has committed,

he shall surely live, he shall not die.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm: 25

O. Alstott

(R.) Remember your mercies, O Lord. Used with permission under license # A7040220

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Brothers and sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit,

any compassion and mercy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing. Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory;

rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but also for those of others.

Have in you the same attitude that is also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.

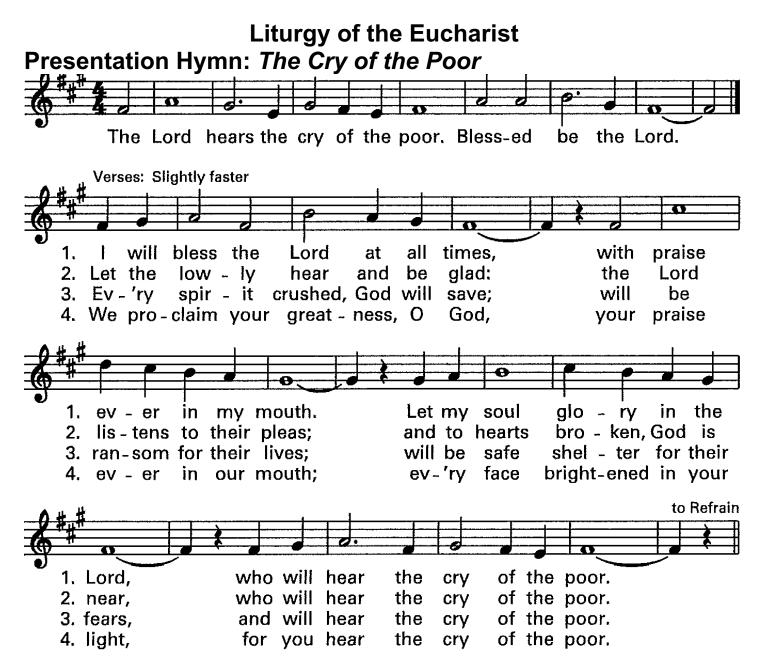
Rather, he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, of those in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:28-32

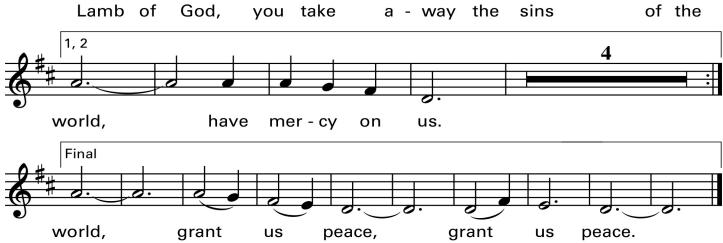
Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people: "What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, 'Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.' He said in reply, 'I will not,' but afterwards changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, 'Yes, sir,' but did not go. Which of the two did his father's will?" They answered, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him." The Gospel of the Lord All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ



Text: Based on Psalm 34:2–3, 18–19a, 19b–20, 4. Text and music © 1978, 1991, John B. Foley, S.J., and OCP. All rights reserved. Used with permission under license # A704022







Communion Hymn: Remember Your Love Ducote Re - mem - ber love and your your 0 Lord. faith - ful - ness, Re - mem - ber your and have Lord. peo - ple mer - cy on us, Verses The Lord light 1. is my and my sal va _ tion, 2. If you dwelt, 0 Lord, our sin - ful - ness, up on 3. Ο Lord, the sound hear of my call 4. As watch man who waits up - on the day light, -Be - fore 5. all the moun-tains were be got ten _ Θ fear? whom should Ι The Lord is my But with you then who could stand? there is and an - swer me. My heart cries for Lord. Ι trust wait the in your took shape, and earth e - ven then, 0 D.C. life and ref - uge, when Ι call God hears. my for guid-ing and - give - ness and hand. mer - cy a for your pres - ence; it is you Ι seek. out kind - ness and re - demp-tion; faith-ful word. and your Lord, you were our ref - uge through-out ev - 'ry age.

Text: Psalm 27; Mike Balhoff, b.1946 Tune: Darryl Ducote, b.1945, and Gary Daigle, b.1957 © 1978, Damean Music. Distributed by GIA Publications, Inc.

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B. Farrell



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Gospel Reflection

A young priest was sent by his bishop to a parish that had a "red light district" within its boundaries. On his first day in the parish a nun, who had worked in the area for many years, took him on a tour of her beat, the area where all the women-in-prostitution were plying their trade. As they went along Sister introduced the priest to her friends Bubbles, Ginger, and Calamity Jane. "Sister it's fantastic that you know these women so well," he said. "Don't worry," replied Sister, "you'll know them in no time as well, and they'll know you by name too."

Seized by panic, the young priest had visions of the bishop, the parish priest or, worse still, his mother coming to visit and walking with him down the street as Bubbles, Ginger, and Calamity Jane all wave and call out across the road, "Hello Father." Who would ever believe he only knew them pastorally?

"Truly I tell you that prostitutes and tax collectors are going ahead of you into the kingdom of God."

The preaching of Jesus attracted all sorts of people who lived at the fringes of, or were oppressed by, Palestinian society. Jesus' message was especially attractive to them. Tensions among the huge variety of Jesus' disciples, between the rich and the poor, men and women, the Jews and Gentiles, the socially respectable and those with outrageous backgrounds continued after his death throughout the next decades, during which the Gospels were written.

It's hard for us to imagine what a diverse and scandalous group in many respects, the first fathers and mothers of our faith were seen to be. Imagine, if you will, the fuss that would still be created if the local bishop was seen constantly dining with women in prostitution, drug dealers or known terrorists. People would be outraged, but the bishop would be doing nothing short of following Jesus' example. This situation gives us a little insight into how affronted the Chief Priests and Pharisees were by Jesus and, in turn, by his disciples' behavior.

For Jesus there was never a lost case, or a person beyond help. He didn't just spend time with the poor and broken of his society, but offered them a new way of life, an opportunity to start again and redemption from their destructive behavior. He went to where they were, as they were. And we do the same because this is precisely what God has done for us. God didn't wait for us to "talk the talk" before we could "walk his walk." Jesus came to us when we were religiously dumb and immobile and showed us how to speak, what to say and where to walk.

The Christian walk and talk is meant to have a profound impact on our daily lives, our concerns, our priorities and compassion. So much so that if, over a period of time, what we celebrate here each Sunday makes no inroads into our family life and workplace, our professional life, our business practices and our relationships, then we should ask ourselves what we are doing here.

And, what's worse, we could even miss the ongoing revelation of Christ's presence in the poor, weak, and vulnerable of our own society. We constantly look for Christ in the spectacular and the wonderful and he comes to us in the least of our brother and sisters.

May this Eucharist give us the strength to not only "look good," but to "be good," to start over if we need to, and do our best to live out the faith we profess. May it strengthen us to find the Lord where he is, and not keep looking in the places where we would prefer him to be.