



St. John The Apostle Catholic Church

September 20th Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Opening God We Praise You 39

1. God, we praise you! God, we bless you!
 God, we name you sov'reign Lord!
 Mighty King whom angels worship,
 Father, by your church adored:
 All creation shows your glory,
 Heav'n and earth draw near your throne,
 Singing 'Holy, holy, holy,
 Lord of hosts, and God alone!'
2. True apostles, faithful prophets,
 Saints who set their world ablaze,
 Martyrs, once unknown, unheeded,
 Join one growing song of praise,
 While your church on earth confesses
 One majestic Trinity:
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 God, our hope eternally.

Reading 1 [IS 55:6-9](#)

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call him while he is near.
Let the scoundrel forsake his way,
and the wicked his thoughts;
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
As high as the heavens are above the earth,
so high are my ways above your ways
and my thoughts above your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm [PS 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18](#)

R. (18a) The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.



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The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.

Reading 2

[PHIL1:20C-24, 27A](#)

Brothers and sisters:

Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.

If I go on living in the flesh,
that means fruitful labor for me.

And I do not know which I shall choose.

I am caught between the two.

I long to depart this life and be with Christ,
for that is far better.

Yet that I remain in the flesh
is more necessary for your benefit.

Only, conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ.

Alleluia

[ACTS 16:14B](#)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Open our hearts, O Lord,
to listen to the words of your Son.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

[MT 20:1-16A](#)

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner
who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.

After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage,
he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o'clock,
the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace,
and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard,
and I will give you what is just.’

So they went off.



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And he went out again around noon,
and around three o'clock, and did likewise.
Going out about five o'clock,
the landowner found others standing around, and said to them,
'Why do you stand here idle all day?'
They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.'
He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'
When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,
'Summon the laborers and give them their pay,
beginning with the last and ending with the first.'
When those who had started about five o'clock came,
each received the usual daily wage.
So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more,
but each of them also got the usual wage.
And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,
'These last ones worked only one hour,
and you have made them equal to us,
who bore the day's burden and the heat.'
He said to one of them in reply,
'My friend, I am not cheating you.
Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?
Take what is yours and go.
What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?
Are you envious because I am generous?'
Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Offertory We Will Rise Again 439

1. Like a shepherd I will feed you;
I will gather you with care.
I will lead you and hold you
close to my heart.

Refrain

*We will run and not grow weary,
for our God will be our strength,
and we will fly like the eagle,
we will rise again.*

2. I am strength to the weary;
to the weak I am new life.
Though the young may grow weary,
I will be their hope.



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Communion

Take and Eat 359

Take and eat; take and eat: this is my body given up for you.

Take and drink; take and drink: this is my blood given up for you.

1. I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
I am the seed that died to be reborn;
I am the bread that comes from heav'n above;
I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
2. I am the way that leads the exile home;
I am the truth that sets the captive free;
I am the life that raises up the dead;
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
3. I am the Lamb that takes away your sin;
I am the gate that guards you night and day;
You are my flock: you know the shepherd's voice;
You are my own: your ransom is my blood.
4. I am the cornerstone that God has laid;
A chosen stone and precious in his eyes;
You are God's dwelling place, on me you rest;
Like living stones, a temple for God's praise.
5. I am the light that came into the world;
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the morning star that never sets;
Lift up your face, in you my light will shine.
6. I am the first and last, the Living One;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
You are my bride, come to the marriage feast.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

At Thy feet, O my Jesus, I prostrate myself and I offer Thee repentance of my contrite heart, which is humbled in its nothingness and in Thy holy presence. I adore Thee in the Sacrament of Thy love, the ineffable Eucharist. I desire to receive Thee into the poor dwelling that my heart offers Thee. While waiting for the happiness of sacramental communion, I wish to possess Thee in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, since I, for my part, am coming to Thee! May Thy love embrace my whole being in life and in death. I believe in Thee, I hope in Thee, I love Thee. Amen. (This prayer is attributed to Servant of God Rafael Merry del Val. This cardinal is known for having promoted the Litany of Humility.)



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Closing **Sing of the Lord's Goodness 562**

1. Sing of the Lord's goodness, Father of all wisdom,
come to him and bless his name.
Mercy he has shown us, his love is forever,
faithful to the end of days.

Refrain

*Come, then, all you nations, sing of your Lord's goodness,
melodies of praise and thanks to God.
Ring out the Lord's glory, praise him with your music,
worship him and bless his name.*

2. Power he has wielded, honor in his garment,
risen from the snares of death.
His word he has spoken, one bread he has broken,
new life he now gives to all.

3. Courage in our darkness, comfort in our sorrow,
Spirit of our God most high;
solace for the weary, pardon for the sinner,
splendor of the living God.