



EUCHALETTE

14 August 2005

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

GOD'S LOVE KNOWS NO BOUNDS

The theme of this 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time and Jesus' merciful attitude toward the Canaanite woman in today's Gospel remind us that God's love knows no boundaries. He is the Father of all human beings. Consequently, we are all brothers and sisters. This is the basic truth that grounds the second greatest commandment, and the challenge we are called to live up to every day.

Unfortunately, we seem to remember this truth almost only when disasters strike and victims plead for help. Just as our universal brotherhood is a reality of every moment, so should its practical manifestations of solidarity, respect, and love be a characteristic of our entire life. Let our participation in this Eucharistic celebration make the universal love of God our inspiration and encouragement to love everybody at all times.



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

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

God, our protector, keep us in mind; always give strength to your people. For if we can be with you even one day, it is better than a thousand without you.

Greeting

P -May the love and peace of God our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit be with you all!

All -And also with you!

Penitential Rite

P -As we prepare to celebrate the Eucharist, let us call to mind what makes us

unworthy to participate in it, especially our failure to live the commandment of universal love preached by Christ. *(Pause)*

P -You have revealed the love of God for all human beings. Lord, have mercy!

All -Lord, have mercy!

P -You came to call all peoples to conversion. Christ, have mercy!

All -Christ, have mercy!

P -You plead for us at the right hand of the Father. 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 peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 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!

Opening Prayer

P -God our Father, may we

love you in all things and above all things and reach the joy you have prepared for us beyond all our imagining.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Is 56:1.6-7*

God intends to gather all peoples in a family of nations which “observe what is right and do what is just,” love His name, and worship Him in His Temple. Such is the grand plan outlined by the prophet Isaiah in today’s First Reading.

R —A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: “Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.

The foreigners who join themselves to the Lord, ministering to him, loving the name of the Lord, and becoming his servants — all who keep the sabbath free from profanation and hold to my covenant, them I will bring to my holy mountain and make joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 67*

R —O God, let all the nations praise you!

R. M. Velez



O God, let all the na-tions



praise you!

* May God have pity on us and bless us; may he let his face shine upon us. So may your way be known upon earth; among all nations, your salvation. **R.**

* May the nations be glad and exult because you rule the peoples in equity; the nations on the earth you guide. **R.**

* May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you! May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear him! **R.**

2nd Reading *Rom 11:13-15.29-32*

Last Sunday, the apostle Paul expressed his deep pain over the fact that the Israelites have not accepted the Gospel. Today, he reflects on what this can mean in God’s long-term plan and the fact that, in His mercy, God wants all to reach salvation.

R —A proclamation from the Letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order to make my race jealous and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.

The Word of the Lord!

All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *Mt 4:23*

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the Kingdom and cured every disease among the people. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Mt 15:21-28*

Although Jesus is the Savior of all mankind, his earthly mission was confined to the people of Israel. Occasionally, however, as we learn from today’s Gospel passage, he knew how to make an exception, thereby showing that he was, indeed, the Savior of Jews and non-Jews alike.

P —A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

All—Glory to you, Lord!

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, “Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon.” But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. His disciples came and asked him, “Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us.” He said in reply, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, “Lord, help me!” He said in reply, “It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters.” Then Jesus said to her in reply, “O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And the woman’s daughter was healed from that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord!

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

All—I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the

dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –We are constantly challenged to mirror God’s love for all. Making this universal love the inspiration of our prayer, let us address our petitions to the One who is the Father of us all and say:

All—We beseech you, Lord, hear us!

C –For the Church, God’s family on earth: May she appreciate all cultures and keep herself open to receive their contribution in order to purify and enrich them with the divine wisdom of the Gospel. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the Holy Father, our bishops, and the leaders of all other Christian denominations: May they all be docile to the promptings of the Spirit as He leads all toward an ever-greater unity of faith and action. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For our political leaders and all those who hold positions of authority: May they be faithful to their commitment to serve all citizens without discrimination and unfair favoritism. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For the organizers of the XX World Youth Day and the participants in the great event: May all their plans and aspirations come true for the good of the Church and of the whole world. Let us pray! **R.**

C –For our parish community and our families: May we all treasure dialogue, be ready to listen to others and do our best to help those in need, following the example of Jesus. Let us pray! **R.**

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

P –Lord God, give us a heart as loving as yours, that we may be able to accept, respect and love everybody as our brother and sister, regardless of social, racial, political or religious differences.

You who live and reign 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 Church.

Prayer over the Gifts

P –Lord, accept our sacrifice as a holy exchange of gifts. By offering what you have given us, may we receive the gift of yourself.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

All—Amen!

Preface III

P –Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

We see your infinite power in your loving plan of salvation. You came to our rescue by your power as God, but you wanted us to be saved by one like us. Man refused your friendship, but man himself was to restore it through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him the angels of heaven offer their prayer of adoration as they rejoice in your presence for ever. May our voices be one with theirs in their triumphant hymn of praise:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 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!

Acclamation

P –Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

All—Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

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 –This is the Lord Jesus who brings salvation to all mankind. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are those who are called to his supper!

All—Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and I shall be healed!

Communion Antiphon

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

With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption.

Prayer after Communion

P –God of mercy, by this sacrament you make us one with Christ. By becoming more like him on earth, may we come to share his glory in heaven, where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITE



P –The Lord be with you!

All-And also with you!

P -Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

(Pause)

May the Lord fill your heart with a boundless love for all human beings in imitation of His!

All-Amen!

P -May He make you pa-

tient and understanding, especially with those who are less gifted or uneducated!

All-Amen!

P -May He surround you with many signs of appreciation, solidarity, and affection wherever you are!

All-Amen!

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

All-Amen!

P -Go in peace and be instruments of Christ's love for all.

All-Thanks be to God!

GOD'S ALL-ENCOMPASSING LOVE AND OURS

God is "Father" - Father to all human beings. **And He wants all of them to attain the aim for which He created them: eternal life with Him.** (See 1 Tim 2:4.) Unfortunately, however, sin has been a disruptive factor in human history. God's plan to bring all men to eternal happiness became a "rescue plan," and the execution of His plan of salvation had to be actualized by stages.

In God's "rescue plan" there existed a "core group," the people of Israel, for whom He cared in a special manner, because it was from them that the Savior of mankind would come. But **the formal offer of salvation to all other peoples was to take place only through the Church, founded by Christ and guided and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.**

This same **Holy Spirit**, however, has always been at work even among the pagans, gradually directing them to yearn for the salvation that comes from Christ. In ways known to Him alone, the Spirit has led every individual and every nation, through the meanders of history, toward the fulfillment of the Divine Plan. In the mysterious interplay of **human freedom** and **divine grace**, of **man's errors** and **God's saving interventions**, we witness the unfolding of **the design of an all-encompassing love conceived by divine Wisdom and actualized at the proper time.**

Today's Gospel passage verifies this truth as it conveys in a dramatic way the wonderful message that God loves all. His salvation does not exclude anyone, though its concrete actualization may have "stages" that do not always coincide with our expectations. But, in the end, the great truth shines forth: **for those who love God and trust in Him, everything works out for their greater good** - everything, including illness and suffering!

The immediate need that brings them to Him may be their need to be healed from a grave illness, or a demonic possession, as we hear in today's Gospel. But what brings these people to Jesus is

something deeper than the immediate need: it is **FAITH - the firm conviction that God is at work in Jesus of Nazareth**, and he can grant the salvation they need.

Indeed, **God's redeeming love knows no frontiers, and humble and persevering faith is the "bridge" that enables us to reach out to Him and be saved by His love.** But God's universal saving love does not simply bring about our salvation. It also challenges us to love in the same way. This means that **we, too, should love all human beings**, and that **our love should be directed to their eternal salvation.**

The devil, always so resourceful in creating obstacles to the fulfillment of God's plan, has been quite successful in blinding human beings to their common brotherhood, as well as to the way they should manifest their love. This is how racism, xenophobia, exaggerated nationalism, and all forms of rejection, aggressiveness or exploitation - man's inhumanity to man - have become part of certain cultures and have caused so much suffering in the course of human history, up to the present.

This is not what the Lord wants. As disciples and followers of the Redeemer of all human beings, we must share concretely in his universal and practical love. **We must, first of all, overcome all temptation to consider ourselves better than others, and even more the temptation to use others for our own selfish interests.** Then **we must muster the courage we need to be "prophets of universal love" in a world blinded and poisoned by pride, arrogance and hatred.** We can make a difference. We must make a difference, even when we are called to pay the highest price.



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Aug 15 - Assumption of Mary

16 - Opening of the XX World Youth Day in
Cologne, Germany