

5 JULY 2020

**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FAITH-FORMATION SUNDAY**

OPENING HYMN

**The Lord is near to all who call on Him.
Rest in Him alone, rest in Him alone.**

Trust in Him forever, O my people,
Pour out all your hearts before the Lord.
Your God is a rock of strength, your glory;
In the Lord is all your hope restored.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who, in the abasement of your son, have raised up a fallen world, fill your faithful with holy joy, for on those you have rescued from slavery to sin you bestow eternal gladness 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.

FIRST READING: Zec 9:9-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 144:1-2, 8-11, 13-14

Our Response is: I will bless your name forever, O God my King.
I will give you glory, O God my King,
I will bless your name forever.
I will bless you day after day
and praise your name forever. **R/**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R/**

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign
and declare your might, O God. **R/**

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and loving in all his deeds.
The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down. **R/**

SECOND READING: Rom 8:9, 11-13

GOSPEL: Mt 11:25-30

REFLECTION:

We all have dreams and ambitions. These depend upon the situation that we are placed in. For example, when we take up a job we work hard so that we can obtain a promotion and better position in the company. As Christ's disciples let us be faithful to our call keeping our eyes of the messianic hope we have in Christ. When we stay faithful to Christ we will find his yoke easy and light.

In the first reading the prophet Zechariah gives us an idea of the messianic age. He predicts the Savior-King will '*come in meekness*' and '*proclaim peace to all*'. In the gospel Jesus assures the people and each one of us that there is peace and rest for us in His kingdom and our burden is light when we yoke ourselves to Jesus. On this Faith-Formation Sunday can we express our faith in acts of studying and proclaiming the Good News? During the Corona Virus pandemic, by taking on Christ's yoke can our faith also be expressed in acts of love towards those in need? **Pause and reflect.**

In the gospel Jesus asks us to yoke ourselves to him. As explicitly explained in the second reading it is with the help of the Holy Spirit that we are able to discern God's will in our lives. On Faith-Formation Sunday we are invited to find the right balance in our life of prayer, reading the scripture and active discipleship. **Pause** Today's Psalm invites us to understand the Lord, as the one who reigns over heaven and earth in all His glory and as one who was incarnated, who identifies himself with us and dwells among the meek and lowly. **Pause**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us confidently bring our prayers before the Lord who is meek and humble of heart.

Our response is: Merciful Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for all the members of the Church, that they may be faithful to Christ teaching and the values of the Gospel; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all the people in the world, that we may live in peace and harmony with each other. May we also work for unity among all people; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who are suffering economic and financial hardships, that their needs will be taken care of by all those in authority and that justice may prevail; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all baptised Christians that we may work together for the oppressed and vulnerable sections in our communities; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus who lightens the yoke of all those who are faithful and believe in him. Hear our prayers and grant us the grace that as faithful disciples, we may work towards building the kingdom of God. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(*All say the Lord's Prayer together*) Our Father, ...

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, we pray that having been replenished by your Word, we may gain the prize of salvation and never cease to praise you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

God is good to me! O what love I see!
Jesus as a Lamb was slain.
He delivered me, cleansed and set me free;
Lord of all, He rose again!

**Now I live, yet not I!
Jesus is alive in me!
Sending the Spirit's flame into my heart again,
God has poured his love on me!**

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)