

27 SEPTEMBER 2020

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING HYMN

Deep within my sins accuse me:

Lord, before you could I stand?
Be attentive to my pleading,
Let your love withhold your hand;
For with you is grace and pardon,
You forgive us when we err,
Now for this we come to thank you
And your holy name revere.

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who manifest Your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, Your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain Your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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. Amen.

FIRST READING: Ez 18:25-28

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 24:4-9

Our Response is: Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. **R/**

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. **R/**

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor. **R/**

SECOND READING: Phil 2:1-11

GOSPEL: Mt 21:28-32

REFLECTION:

Many of us find it difficult to accept change in our life. This change may be caused because of our jobs, our household situation, for example, the death of a loved one, office or even a life style change that the Corona Virus pandemic may have caused. It is even more difficult when we have to change our attitudes and behavior patterns. Change is important in being Christ's disciple.

The first reading, from the book of Ezekiel, is a message of hope to each one of us. God tells us to "*renounce sin and become law abiding and honest*". We are invited to do what is just and live upright lives. In the Gospel of today, Jesus invites us to change and follow true righteousness. **(Pause)**

The Psalmist invites us to focus on God's goodness and mercy instead of our sins. We need to empty ourselves of our pride and be humble and honest, as we ask God to teach us how to walk in His truth, and live our lives following His path. What ways would I like God to teach me? **(Pause)**

In the Gospel, the first son's immediate answer to his father was honest, but later on he thought better i.e. he "*changed his mind*" and went to work in the vineyard. The second son answered "*Certainly, sir*" but he did not keep his promise. By using this parable, Jesus condemns the attitude of the chief priests and the elders as being similar to that of the second son. The tax collectors and prostitutes changed as they followed the path of *righteousness* shown by John. Conversion is a process throughout our lives. Are we open to allowing the Holy Spirit to transform us to become more Christ-like in our dealings with others? **(Pause)**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: God invites each one of us to be faithful and to work in His vineyard. Let us confidently bring our prayers to the Lord.

Our response is: **Gracious Father, hear our prayer**

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may be open to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to transform us to be more Christ like; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those in authority, that they may be open and obedient to God's Spirit; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those who have wandered away from God's love, that they may return to the Lord who is full of mercy and goodness; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all those baptised, that we may safeguard the environment and help those who are most affected by any changes; **(pause)**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Heavenly Father, You have called us to love You, serve You and obey You. Hear our prayers and help us to love You by serving our neighbour as ourself. 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, may the Celebration of Your Word, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim His Death. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. 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

**Though the mountains may fall and the hills turn to dust,
Yet the love of the Lord will stand,
As a shelter for all who will call on his name:
Sing the praise and the glory of God.**

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

*Commission For Liturgy
Archdiocese of Bombay*