

## **Liturgy Alive of 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)**

### **Greeting (See First Reading)**

My house will be called  
a house of prayer for all peoples,  
says the Lord.  
As the Lord welcomes us,  
may we be open to all.  
May the Lord, the Savior of all, be with you.  
R/ And also with you.

### **Introduction by the Celebrant**

#### **A. How Catholic Are We?**

How wide are the doors of our Church? Is there place in our Church for everyone? We know and profess that God is the Father of all people. We believe and announce that Jesus died for everyone and all. Yet, is that the reality? We even look down on other Christians, and at times on other Catholics too, because they do not honor the Lord in exactly the same way as we do. Let us ask the Lord of all to help us do away with all discrimination and with him to make us open to all.

#### **B. Strangers No More**

What do we think of aliens and strangers and how do we treat them? What is our attitude toward people who are different? The Christian position should be one of acceptance and welcome, for this is God's attitude. All are God's children, and he wants the happiness of all. He calls all to his house and wants it to be a house of prayer for all. With Christ, let us welcome all.

### **Penitential Act**

Let us ask pardon from God and one another  
that our hearts are often closed  
and not as wide as God's heart.

(PAUSE)

Lord Jesus, Son of David,  
you revealed to us your Father  
as the God of all people:  
Lord, have mercy. R/ Lord, have mercy.

Jesus Christ, you came to save all people  
and you died and rose for all:  
Christ, have mercy. R/ Christ, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you hear the prayer of pagans  
and make yourself known

to all those who seek you:  
Lord, have mercy. R/ Lord, have mercy.

Have mercy on us, Lord,  
and forgive us our narrow-mindedness  
and our selfishness.  
Give us wide open hearts  
and lead us to everlasting life. R/ Amen.

### **Opening Prayer**

Let us pray to the Father of all  
that our heart, like his own,  
may be open to all people  
(PAUSE)  
Father of all,  
long ago you chose the people of Israel  
to make your name known to all the nations.  
Your Son Jesus Christ made it clear  
that forgiveness and fullness of life are the share  
of all who believe in him.  
Make your Church truly a place of encounter  
for all those who grope for you,  
that all obstacles and barriers may be removed  
and that the riches of all nations and cultures  
may reveal the thousand faces  
of the love you show us  
in Jesus Christ our Lord. R/ Amen.

### **Liturgy of the Word**

#### **First Reading Introduction: Foreigners are no longer strangers**

Not only the Jewish people but also pagans are called to live in the house of God. All those who want to be part of the covenant are no longer strangers to God and his people.

#### **Second Reading Introduction: God's mercy extends to all**

Most of the Jews did not accept Christ as the Savior. This was the occasion for the Church to preach the Good News to the pagans. God wants all to be saved, Jews and pagans.

#### **Gospel Introduction: There is room for pagans in the Father's house**

Jesus affirms that priority is given to the Jews as heirs of the Messianic promises. Yet the kingdom is open to all who believe.

### **General Intercessions**

Let us pray to God our Father, who opens his heart and home to all who seek him, and let us say: R/

Listen to your people, Lord.

- That the Church may be attentive to the life and needs of today's world and discover in its aspirations bridges toward Christian hope, let us pray: R/ Listen to your people, Lord.

- That there may be room in the universal Church for the cultural riches of various peoples and for manifesting one and the same faith in a variety of languages and forms of expression, let us pray: R/ Listen to your people, Lord.

- That the Jews, the first people called by God, may see their hopes fulfilled and one day discover Christ as their Savior, let us pray: R/ Listen to your people, Lord.

- That we may open our hearts and homes to those that are hard to accommodate: strangers and refugees, the jobless and the poor, victims of discrimination and oppression; that we may do all we can to integrate them into the human and Christian community, let us pray: R/ Listen to your people, Lord.

- That all of us here may be concerned about those who are not here because they are estranged from the Church, that our lives may reveal Christ to them, let us pray: R/ Listen to your people, Lord.

God our Father, do not allow us ever to become a self-enclosed, self-satisfied group, but make us into a real community open to all people and all needs, on account of Jesus Christ our Lord. R/ Amen.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

God our Father,  
you set the table of your Son  
for all who are willing to come:  
for saints and for sinners,  
for the poor and the rich.  
Give us your Son Jesus Christ.  
May we learn from him  
to give to all those who ask for food or love  
not meager crumbs or left-overs,  
but the food of ourselves,  
as Jesus does here for us,  
your Son and our Lord for ever. R/ Amen.

### **Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer**

At the heart of the eucharistic celebration we remember that Christ died and rose for all and wants to gather all into his kingdom.

### **Invitation to the Lord's Prayer**

In the words of Jesus our Lord

let us pray to the Father of all  
that his kingdom may come to every person on earth.  
: R/ Our Father...

### **Deliver Us**

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil,  
most of all from sin, the greatest of all evils.  
Keep us free from judging and condemning,  
for who are we to pass judgment on others  
since we ourselves have to ask you  
to be patient and lenient with us.  
Help us to accept and appreciate each other  
and to prepare together in joy and hope  
the full coming among us  
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.  
R/ For the kingdom..

### **Prayer for Peace**

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you want to bring the peace of your kingdom  
to everyone willing to receive your love.  
At the table of your kingdom  
you regard no one as a stranger.  
Dispose us, too, to recognize in every person  
a beloved son or daughter of your Father.  
Make us share your peace with all  
and lead all into your kingdom  
where you live for ever. Amen.

### **Invitation to Communion**

This is Jesus the Lord,  
who has set his table for us.  
He invites all those who believe in him  
and are willing to come to him.  
R/ Lord, I am not worthy...

### **Prayer after Communion**

God our Father,  
in this eucharist we have all been one  
in Jesus Christ your Son.  
He died and rose to life for all;  
his likeness is reflected

in the face of every human being:  
let it become visible in all.  
Let his face not be marred or divided  
by our prejudices and fears;  
do not allow our love to be less than universal,  
but unite us all in him  
who is our common way to you and to one another,  
Jesus Christ our Lord. R/ Amen.

## **Blessing**

We have heard the Lord tell us in this eucharist:  
"My house shall be called  
a house of prayer for all peoples."  
The Lord's house is not merely  
this building of stone where we gather to pray,  
but the people of God, the living body of Christ.  
May there be room in this house,  
that is, among us, in our Christian communities,  
for all people, whatever their race or social class,  
their culture or education.  
May almighty God bless you all:  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. R/ Amen.

Go and bear witness  
to the world-wide love of the Lord. R/ Thanks be to God.