

Liturgy Alive of 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time - B -

Greetings *(see second reading)*

Jesus came to bring the good news of peace:
peace to those who are far away
and peace to you who are close-by.

May that peace be always with you. *R/ And also with you.*

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. God, Compassionate Like a Mother

What a pity if our world would become so heartless as to do away with compassion, with pity! We hear today's Good News that God cares for us with a love deeper and even more tender than that of a mother for the child to which she gave life. He is particularly close to those who need him most: the weak, those who suffer, those who count for nothing. That is the love he showed us in Jesus; that is the love he invites us to have for each other: deep, tender, lasting, not afraid of showing itself. Let us ask Jesus here with us in the eucharist for such a compassionate and committed love.

B. A Shepherd Who Cares

There are times when we understand instinctively that a person is very close to us, that he or she understands us and feels with us, even if few words are said. This is how Jesus was one with the people, one of them, feeling with them, seeing their needs without having to be told, also the hidden needs, the needs of the heart. This is how Jesus feels about us. The gospel expresses this in the image of Jesus as the shepherd who cares. We are gathered here around him and entrust ourselves to him. May we learn from him to care for one another.

Penitential Act

We are sure God keeps us in his love
even when we forget him when we sin.
Let us ask the Lord to forgive us.
(PAUSE)
Lord Jesus, you loved people
and you still love all of us
with a warm, understanding love:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Jesus Christ, you know what we need most:
a word of acceptance and encouragement,
a gesture of forgiveness and affection:
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, you can make us like yourself:
compassionate and healing,
generous and merciful:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

May we bring the forgiveness and mercy
which the Lord has shown us
to all those we meet.

May the Lord lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

Let us entrust ourselves and all those dear to us
to our compassionate God
(PAUSE)
Our loving God,
your Son Jesus has revealed you to us
as more tender, warmhearted and compassionate
than any mother could ever be.
Be near to all who are wounded in life,
care for all the little people trampled upon.
Make all those who follow your Son
people who can forgive and heal,
who make themselves nourishing bread
for all who are hungry in any way.
Make us care for one another
as you care for us through Jesus,

your Son and our Lord for ever and ever. *R/ Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

Introduction to the First Reading: [In Search of a True Shepherd](#)

The leaders of Israel have been bad shepherds, says Jeremiah. But God will give his people a good shepherd, the Messiah.

Introduction to the Second Reading: [Christ Our Peace](#)

Through Christ's blood, both Jesus and pagans become God's people of the covenant; in this way enemies are reconciled.

Gospel Introduction: Jesus' Heart Went Out to the Leaderless People

When he and his disciples needed some days off for rest, Jesus could not close his heart to the leaderless people who searched for him. As a shepherd he nourished them with his word.

General Intercessions

Let us pray to our patient, merciful God that compassion may never disappear from our world, and let us say: *R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.*

- Lord, we pray you for a compassionate Church that is lenient and patient with those who err, a Church which gives them the time and the help to repent, and so we ask you: *R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we pray you to give to your Church compassionate shepherds who show something of your patience and mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation, and so we ask you: *R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we pray you for a compassionate society that cares for the needy, tries to do away with unjust structures and makes its laws and courts bring justice to all without any discrimination, and so we ask you: *R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.*
- Lord, we pray to make us compassionate people, who bring your mercy and love to the sick and the aged, to widows and orphans, to the discouraged and the dying, we pray you: *R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.*
- Lord, make us compassionate communities, who, like you, see and feel the needs of people without being asked; who try gently and unobtrusively to lighten the burdens of those who suffer, and so we ask you: *R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.*
- Lord, be compassionate and patient with us when we have sinned and restore us, we ask you: *R/ Have mercy on your people, Lord.*

You are a God attentive to the needs and the happiness of people. Let your Spirit give us hearts full of compassion, like the shepherd's heart of Jesus, your Son, who lives with you for ever. Amen.

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God, compassionate Father,
in these signs of bread and wine
we welcome your Son Jesus Christ
as our Good Shepherd who died for us
to give direction to our lives.
Reassure us that he is familiar
with our weariness and miseries,
that he listens when we turn to him,
that he is present when we need him.
For he is our Lord and Shepherd

now and for ever. *Amen*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Through and with Jesus, our Good Shepherd, let us thank our Father in heaven for caring for us and guiding us through his Son.

Introduction to the Lord's Prayer

God is a Father who cares.
Full of trust, we pray to him

with Jesus, our Good Shepherd: *R/ Our Father...*

Deliver Us

Deliver us, Lord, from every evil
and grant us peace in our day.
Keep us from drifting about without aim.
Gather us together and make us
shepherds to one another,
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming in glory

of our Shepherd and Savior Jesus Christ. *R/ For the kingdom...*

Greeting of Peace

Jesus is our peace with the Father
and with one another.

May his peace be always with you.

Invitation to Communion

This is Jesus, our Good Shepherd,
who knows us by name
and who gave his life for us.
He gathers us together
and gives us his body to eat
to keep us united as his one people.
Happy are we to be invited

to the table of the Lord. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

Prayer of Trust (F. Cromphout)

*By way of thanksgiving, the following prayer of trust could
be prayed by all if it is in the people's booklet; otherwise
it is read slowly by the leader.
After it, the celebrant concludes with the Prayer after Communion.*

God, you are always greater
than we dare to expect.
You do new and unheard things.
When the world crumbles around us,
you make a new creation.
Make us attentive
to your action in these times,
that we may not stand still
to stare at the things of the past,
and not seek you where you are not to be found.
Go ahead of us,
you who are our future.
Help us to seek new ways
to you and to one another
and to hold on to each other
in all our uncertainties.
Give us the firm assurance
that your power is still active today
and that you keep renewing the world

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Prayer after Communion

Our God and Father,

we thank you with all our hearts
for giving us a sure guide,
someone who knows where he leads us,
your Son Jesus Christ.
Keep giving to your Church today
pastors in the image of your Son.
Let them be full of compassion and vision,
sensitive to people and their needs,
open to the demands and potentials
of the gospel and of our times.
Let them be true shepherds

by the power of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Blessing

A world without pity or compassion
is a world with little room for God.
May our communities reflect
the compassion of Jesus our Lord;
make us attentive to each other's needs,
both material and spiritual,
for God has entrusted us to one another.
May the kind and merciful God bless you all:

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Go, follow the Lord,

and be responsible for one another. *R/ Thanks be to God.*