# HOW TO BE MEMBERS OF THE BEST OF ALL FAMILIES

n the last two verses of today's Gospel passage, Jesus offers all of us the possibility of belonging to the best family ever: his own family. But this generous offer has a condition: to do God's will at all times.

Doing the Father's will had been Jesus' "food" all along, without uncertainties or regrets.

This total and unconditional obedience to the Father in imitation of Jesus is also our duty and our privilege. We are expected to **do what God wants as a sign and proof of our love for Him.** Such generous obedience will leave no room for yielding to the devil's temptation, as Adam and Eve, unfortunately, did. **Our model should always remain Jesus**, the obedient Son. And whenever our attitude and actuations are such, Jesus will joyfully declare, "These are my brothers, sisters and mothers – my family – with whom I am well pleased."



#### INTRODUCTORY RITES



#### **Entrance Antiphon**

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

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? When those who do evil draw near, they stumble and fall.

#### Greeting

P – Grace and peace from God, our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, our Brother, and the Holy Spirit, our divine Guest, be with you all!
All – And with your spirit!

#### **Penitential Act**

**P** -As we resume the series of Sundays in Ordinary Time, let us pause for a while and ask ourselves if we are properly disposed to worthily participate

in the Eucharistic celebration. (*Pause*)

P -For the times we have ignored God's commands and have yielded to the devil's temptations, Lord, have mercy!

#### *All* – Lord, have mercy!

P -For the times we have failed to acknowledge our own misconduct, Christ, have mercy!

#### *All* – Christ, have mercy!

P -For the times we have not behaved as worthy members of Jesus' family, 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 on earth peace to people

of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

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

#### Collect (Opening Prayer)

**P** -O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it.

THOUSAND ACCOUNTS

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.

All-Amen!

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

**1st Reading** *Gn 3:9-15* 

The second Creation Story (Gn 2:4b-25) presents the origin of man as the very beginning of God's creative activity, and emphasizes the very special care that God took of the first human couple.

Unfortunately, the devil, disguised as a shrewd serpent, convinced Eve to disobey God's orders, and so did Adam. At that moment, the original innocence and happiness of the first human family came to a sad end. But God still loved humankind and made the promise that we will hear at the end of today's First Reading.

R -A proclamation from the Book of Genesis

After the man, Adam, had eaten of the tree, the Lord God called to the man and asked him: "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then God asked: "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat?" The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me - she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it." The Lord God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The snake tricked me into it, so I ate it."

Then the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals, and from all wild creatures; on your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel."

The Word of the Lord! *All* – **Thanks be to God!** 

Responsorial Psalm Ps 130

R -With the Lord there is mercy, and fullness of redemption!





- \* Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to my voice of my pleading. R.
- \* If you, O Lord, mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand? But with you is forgiveness, that you may be revered. R.
- \* I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in his word. More than sentinels wait for the dawn, let Israel wait for the Lord. R.
- \* For with the Lord is kindness and with him is plenteous redemption, and he will redeem Israel from all their iniquities. R.

2nd Reading 2 Cor 4:13-5:1

Writing to the faithful of Corinth, the Apostle Paul encourages them to look beyond the present difficulties and to find consolation and hope in the firm assurance of the eternal reward that the Lord has in store for those who remain faithful to him. This is a message addressed also to us.

 R -A proclamation from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: Since we have the same spirit of faith, according to what is written, "I believed, therefore I spoke," we too believe and therefore speak, knowing that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in his presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged. Rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen: for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal. We know that, if our earthly dwelling, [which is like] a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal dwelling in heaven not made by [human]

The Word of the Lord! *All* – **Thanks be to God!** 

Gospel Acclamation Jn 12: 31b-32

All-Alleluia! Alleluia!

"Now the ruler of this world will be driven out," says the Lord; "and when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Mk 3:20-35* 

Jesus' casting out demons and his zeal in ministering to the needs of the people were sometimes misinterpreted not only by the religious authorities but also by the members of his family.

In today's Gospel episode, Jesus takes the opportunity of the arrival of his mother and some of his relatives to tell his audience (and all of us) that anyone who does God's will is a member of his family.

P -The Lord be with you!All -And with your spirit!

 P - A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

All-Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus came home with his disciples. Again the crowd

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gathered, making it impossible for them even to eat.

When his relatives heard of this they set out to seize him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." The scribes who had come from Jerusalem said, "He is possessed by Beelzebul," and "By the prince of demons he drives out demons."

Summoning them, Jesus began to speak to them in parables, "How can Satan drive out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand: that is the end of him. No one can enter a strong man's house to plunder his property unless he first ties up the strong man. Then he can plunder his house.

Amen, I say to you, all sins and all blasphemies that people utter will be forgiven them. But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, for he is guilty of an everlasting sin." [He said this] because they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

Jesus' mother and his brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent word to him and called him. A crowd seated around him told him, "Your mother and your brothers and your sisters are outside asking for you."

But he said to them in reply, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking around at those seated in the circle he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

The Gospel of the Lord!

All-Praise to you, Lord Jesus
Christ!

#### **Homily**

#### **Profession of Faith**

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

*All* – I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)\* and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.\* For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

#### **Prayer of the Faithful**

*P* – Dear brothers and sisters, as members of Jesus' spiritual family on earth, let us address our petitions to the Lord for all the intention dear to our heart. Full of confidence in God's merciful love, let us pray:

### All-Father of our Brother Jesus, hear our prayer!

- C -For the Church, the family of all believers: May she bravely proclaim and do God's will. Let us pray! R.
- C -For the Pope and all religious leaders: May they constantly lead all the faithful in doing God's will, despite all temptations to the contrary. Let us pray!

  R.
- *C* -For those who have been mislead by the devil into dis-

obeying God's commandments: May they realize the wrong they have done, feel sorry and make amends for it. Let us pray! **R.** 

- C -For the families and communities that are undergoing severe trials: May they continue trusting in the Lord, according to the teaching of St. Paul. Let us pray!

  R.
- C -For our own families: May they be constantly bent on doing God's will, in imitation of Jesus and Mary Most Holy. Let us pray!

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

  R.
- P -Father in heaven, we thank You for having made us members of Your family on earth, brothers and sisters of Jesus, our Savior. Keep us always faithful to You, seeking first the coming of your Kingdom, where You 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 holy Church.

#### **Prayer over the Offerings**

**P** -Look kindly upon our service, O Lord, we pray, that what we offer may be an acceptable oblation to you and lead us to grow in charity.

Through Christ our Lord. *All* – **Amen!** 

#### **Preface VI**

**P** – It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For in you we live and move and have our being, and while in this body we not only experience the daily effects of your care, but even now possess the pledge of life eternal.

For, having received the first fruits of the Spirit, through whom you raised up Jesus from the dead, we hope for an everlasting share in the Paschal Mystery.

And so, with all the Angels, we praise you, as in joyful celebration, we acclaim:

All – Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. 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!

#### **Memorial Acclamation**

**P** -The mystery of faith!

All-Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

#### 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** -Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All-Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

#### **Communion Antiphon**

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

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my saving strength.

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**P** -May your healing work, O Lord, free us, we pray, from doing evil and lead us to what is right.

Through Christ our Lord. *All* – **Amen!** 

#### CONCLUDING RITES



P -The Lord be with you.All -And with your spirit!

P -Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing and respond aloud, "Amen!" at the end of every invocation. (Pause)

May you always have the wisdom and courage to reject the devil's temptations and do God's holy will!

#### All-Amen!

P -May you always keep in mind the great prize that the Lord has in store for those who persevere in doing good!

#### All - Amen!

P -May you constantly behave in such a way as to become an inspiration to all the other members of our communities!

#### All-Amen!

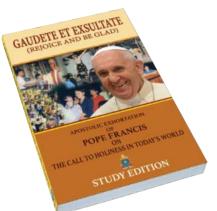
P –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

#### All-Amen!

P -Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All - Thanks be to God!

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