



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HYMN

Seek Ye First

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
And all things shall be added unto you. Allelu, alleluia.**

INTRODUCTION

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

Sing or recite the *Gloria* together:

**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.

Leader: Let us pray,

Almighty ever-living God,
grant that we may always conform our will to yours
and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.
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.

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible. Otherwise, daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: Isaiah 45:1, 4-6

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

Refrain (all together): **Give the Lord glory and honor.**

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Refrain (all together): **Give the Lord glory and honor.**

For great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
awesome is he, beyond all gods.
For all the gods of the nations are things of nought,
but the LORD made the heavens.

Refrain (all together): **Give the Lord glory and honor.**

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his name!
Bring gifts, and enter his courts.

Refrain (all together): **Give the Lord glory and honor.**

Worship the LORD, in holy attire;
tremble before him, all the earth;
say among the nations: The LORD is king,
he governs the peoples with equity.

Refrain (all together): **Give the Lord glory and honor.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5B

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): Matthew 22:15-21

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from Ian Barnstead, Religion teacher at Trinity High School in Whitesville:

Today’s readings offer us a chance to reflect on politics. Usually, political interpretations of the Bible do not go so well, with people twisting the meaning of passages to suit their own ends, often leading to something far from the Gospel message. But today we get a clear message from Jesus about our involvement in political life: “repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar.” We are called to render our due service to the government, which Jesus places within the context of our duty to God. Jesus avoids the trap set by the Pharisees by shutting down the false dichotomy between civil duty and religious duty.

Christians are often accused of focusing too much on heaven, rather than the work that needs to be done here on earth. John Lennon’s *Imagine* comes to mind, calling on all to forget about heaven and worry about earth. But Scripture tells us today that nothing could be further from the truth. Our faith does not prevent one from participating in the governing of this world, indeed it impels us to work for a more fair and just society. Far from putting us above the law, our faith obligates us to follow any and all fair and just laws. The First Reading shows us that secular authority is not far from God’s mind; even a pagan king will be His instrument to carrying out His plan for redemption. Cyrus, the king of Persia, is the one to restore God’s chosen people to the Promised Land. All things work to God’s end. St. Paul reminds us that we all have the role of building up the Kingdom of God through our “work of faith and labor of love” and our hope in Jesus. Our involvement in secular politics, from voting and paying taxes to running for political office, should be a labor of love that all Catholics in one way or another participate in.

Catholics through the centuries have heroically taken up this call, from St. Thomas More resisting the unjust authority of Henry VIII trying to take control of the Church in England, to Dorothy Day, whose social activism demanded the rights and protections for the most vulnerable of society. Catholic Social Teaching is a beautiful fruit of this Gospel call to participate in political life. A good start for any Catholic wanting to be better prepared for this election season would be to review the many documents of the Church’s social teaching, from Pope Leo XIII’s *Rerum Novarum* to Pope Francis’s new social encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*. Ultimately, in our attempts to repay to Caesar, we must always keep in mind that second part of Christ’s words, “repay to God what belongs to God,” in all things, giving back to God what is His, which is, of course, everything.

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here:

<http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?

How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us give glory to the great God, presenting our needs with trust and confidence.

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, “Lord, hear our prayer.” It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers of your people — who give praise for all the good things that come from you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis’ prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add “Let us offer each other the sign of peace,” extending a sign of Christ’s peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

Seek Ye First

**Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;
Knock and the door shall be opened unto up. Allelu, alleluia.**

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