

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### *Preface to the Eucharistic Prayer*

#### **Creation**

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 you laid the foundations of the world  
and have arranged the changing of times and seasons;  
you formed man in your own image  
and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder,  
to rule in your name over all you have made  
and for ever praise you in your mighty works,  
through Christ our Lord.

#### **Communion Antiphon**

*(to be recited privately)*

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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“Care for nature is part of a lifestyle which includes the capacity for living together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers and sisters. Fraternal love can only be gratuitous; it can never be a means of repaying others for what they have done or will do for us. That is why it is possible to love our enemies. This same gratuitousness inspires us to love and accept the wind, the sun and the clouds, even though we cannot control them. In this sense, we can speak of a ‘universal fraternity’”.  
(Pope Francis, “Laudato Si’”, n. 228).

## SAINT MARY STAR OF THE SEA, LARGS OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR, MILLPORT

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23<sup>rd</sup> ORDINARY SUNDAY (A)  
5-6 SEPTEMBER 2020

#### **Readings**



“If your brother does something wrong,  
go and have it out with him alone,  
between your two selves.  
If he listens to you,  
you have won back your brother.  
If he does not listen,  
take one or two others along with you:  
the evidence of two or three witnesses  
is required to sustain any charge.”

(Matthew 18: 15-16)

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### GOD'S PRESENCE WITHIN

*Sometimes a truth of faith that we know with our head is not one whose real significance we actually grasp in any depth. And yet, if we did grasp it more deeply, it could alter the way we think of God, ourselves and even of the world.*

*In the "Penny Catechism", one of the first questions was: "Where is God?" The answer was, "God is everywhere." Because you were then probably going to move on to the next question and answer, you may well not have let the truth, "God is everywhere" actually sink in! But God IS everywhere! And that truth has huge implications for our lives.*

*In this Season of Creation which we are celebrating along with all other Christians, to remember that God is everywhere means that he is present to all creation: to the tiniest microbe as to the vastest black hole in space; to the flowers in your garden as to the Amazon rain forest; to the depths of the ocean as to the heights of the mountains.*

*But there is one place in this everywhere of creation in which he most delights to dwell. It's the place for love of whom he created everything else and displayed his power and glory in the macro and in the micro realities of the universe. That place is you, every you. He is present in you and to you and for you and with you. What does the hymn say? "Christ be before me, behind me, above me, below me, within me ...."*

*In the deepest depths of your heart, soul and conscience, the Face of God looks back at you, moved with joy, love, pity and care. Not one cell in your body is unknown to him, is unloved by him. But far more delightful to him is your heart, your very I.*

*It is good, then, to remember that his presence is not just there for you as it is in any other created thing, but in a completely different and more powerful manner. The highest expression of his Presence within you is what we call sanctifying grace, received in baptism, strengthened in confirmation and fed in the Eucharist.*

*To source that Presence within, you need faith and an attentive love. You need time and silence. You need to detach for a time from the chaotic stratosphere of your wild mind and emotions, to sink slowly downwards and inwards, calling his name in rhythm with your breath and experiencing his unspeakable presence in the stillness of your I. But you also need to remember that that same Presence is in everyone else – enemies included.*

### First Reading

**Romans 13:8-10**

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: *You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet*, and so on, are summed up in this single command: *You must love your neighbour as yourself*. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

### Responsorial Psalm 94(95):1-2,6-9

*O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

### Gospel

**Matthew 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.

'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

*The Gospel of the Lord.*