

# Sunday Message

TENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year B • 9 June 2024 • Psalter Week 2

## FAMILY VALUES

MARK 3:20-35



In today's Gospel, Jesus goes home with his disciples and such a large crowd assembles that they can not even have a meal.

When Jesus' relatives hear that he is home, they set out to seize him, for they are convinced he has gone out of his mind. It seems that members of his own blood family do not understand him or the urgency of his preaching. They think he is crazy.

Now some scribes confront Jesus. His family thinks he is insane, but the scribes think, rather, that he is possessed by a demon. The only explanation they can come up with for Jesus' ability to expel demons is that he must be possessed by Beelzebul. In a stinging reply, Jesus asks if Satan can drive out Satan. To answer his own question, Jesus argues that a Kingdom caught up in deadly internal conflict will ultimately destroy itself. The same is true with Satan. If, as the scribes suggest, Jesus has aligned himself with Satan, then the result can only be that Satan's kingdom will ultimately self-destruct. It is through God's power that Jesus drives out demons, not Satan's.

As Jesus is debating with the scribes, members of his family arrive outside the house desperate to reach him. When informed of this, notice what Jesus does. He asks, "Who are my mother and brothers?" Then he looks at those sitting around him and declares that these are his family. This new family of his disciples replaces Jesus' own blood family.

Jesus sets out the conditions for belonging to this new family – a positive response to his preaching by doing God's will, openness to the presence of God's Kingdom and a radical conversion of heart. All who respond to him in this way constitute his new family. For Mark, Jesus' blood family is outside his new family of disciples since they think he is insane. ■

### LEARN

Just like Mark's community, which was the first to read the story of Jesus' mother and brothers, we are challenged to become members of Jesus' new family of disciples by doing God's will.

### DO

Look around you at those gathered in church. All gathered here - no matter who they are or where they come from - are members of Jesus' family of disciples, and so are members of your family also.

### REFLECT

We are all familiar with the saying, "Blood is thicker than water," and we know what it means.

Family comes first. Our blood relatives - grandparents, parents, siblings, children, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins - are the people who are most important to us. Those who make up our immediate family tree are the ones we love and treasure above all others. Most of us would go to any lengths to protect the members of our family. Blood is thicker than water.

But, according to St Mark, we need to turn that saying around. For the Christian, water is actually thicker than blood. The water of baptism is thicker than blood. For through baptism, we become part of a new family, the body of Christ, the communion of saints. We become Jesus' sisters and brothers. We show we are part of Jesus' family by loving God and our neighbour. We show it by doing God's will. ■

### PRAY

Though part of the one Church, there is division and discord within our ranks. As we saw during the synod on synodality in Rome last October, not all Catholics share the same vision or conceive of the Church in the same way. Pray for greater unity in our Church and between the Christian traditions.

### SAY

"Lord, help me to see all the baptised as my sisters and brothers. Help me to treat everyone with love and respect. Amen."



**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

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.

**GLORIA**

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**

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.

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.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING**

Genesis 3:9-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord God called to the man after he had eaten of the tree. "Where are you?" he asked. "I heard the sound of you in the garden," he replied, "I was afraid because I was naked, so I hid." "Who told you that you were naked?" he asked. "Have you been eating of the tree I forbade you to eat?" The man replied, "It was the woman you put with me; she gave me the fruit, and I ate it." Then the Lord God asked the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman replied, "The serpent tempted me and I ate."

Then the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Be accursed beyond all cattle, all wild beasts. You shall crawl on your belly and eat dust every day of your life.

I will make you enemies of each other: you and the woman, your offspring and her offspring. It will crush your head and you will strike its heel."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**PSALM**

Psalm 129(130)

Response:

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

1. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,  
Lord, hear my voice!  
O let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my pleading. (R.)

2. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness:  
for this we revere you. (R.)

3. My soul is waiting for the Lord.  
I count on his word.  
My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchman for daybreak. ( (R.)

4. Because with the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity. (R.)

**SECOND READING** 2 Corinthians 4:13 - 5:1

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

As we have the same spirit of faith that is mentioned in scripture – I believed, and therefore I spoke – we too believe and therefore we too speak, knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus to life will raise us with Jesus in our turn, and put us by his side and you with us. You see, all this is for your benefit, so that the more grace is multiplied among people, the more thanksgiving there will be, to the glory of God.

That is why there is no weakening on our part, and instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him, and we shall  
come to him. Alleluia!

**GOSPEL**

Mark 3:20-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus went home with his disciples, and such a crowd collected that they could not even have a meal. When his relatives heard of this, they set out to take charge of him, convinced he was out of his mind.

The scribes who had come down from Jerusalem were saying, "Beelzebul is in him" and, "It is through the prince of devils that he casts devils out." So he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot last. And if a household is divided against itself, that household can never stand. Now if Satan has rebelled against himself and is divided, he cannot stand either – it is the end of him. But no one can make his way into a strong man's house and burgle his property unless he has tied up the strong man first. Only then can he burgle his house.

"I tell you solemnly, all men's sins will be forgiven, and all their blasphemies; but let anyone blaspheme against the Holy Spirit and he will never have forgiveness: he is guilty of an eternal sin.' This was because they were saying, "An unclean spirit is in him."

His mother and brothers now arrived and, standing outside, sent in a message asking for him. A crowd was sitting round him at the time the message was passed to him, 'Your mother and brothers and sisters are outside asking for you.' He replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking round at those sitting in a circle about him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers. Anyone who does the will of God, that person is my brother and sister and mother.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

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,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

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 OVER THE OFFERINGS**

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.

Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my  
deliverer;

my God is my saving strength.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May your healing work, O Lord,

free us, we pray, from doing evil

and lead us to what is right.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.