



Second Sunday After Christmas

He Lived Among Us

Introduction

We all suffer from loneliness from time to time. Even the great Helen Keller who was blind said: "At times loneliness sits like a load on my shoulders". It is wonderful to have company, especially in moments of pain. Our companion may not be able to take away our pain, but at least we know that we are not alone. That someone cares about us. The message of today's liturgy is that God is always present with his people. He never abandons us. Let us draw close to him now. Let us ask his help in a spirit of deep faith and trust.

First Reading (Ecclesiasticus 24:1-2, 8-12)

This is a poem in praise of wisdom, a wisdom that has pitched her tent among God's chosen people.

Second Reading (Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18)

This reading introduces the theme of God's loving plan of salvation for us.

Gospel (John 1:1-18)

As the Son of God, Jesus existed from the very beginning, sharing the divine life of the Father. But then he became man, sharing our human lives in order to give us a share in his divine life.

Prayer Of The Faithful

God our Father loved us so much that he sent his Son to save us. With confidence let us place our requests before him.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ showed us how to live a life truly pleasing to God. May all his followers strive to follow his example. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



Liturgy Cycle B

For leaders and governments: that God may guide them and give them wisdom and integrity. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

In the garden of Gethsemane Christ cried out: "My soul is ready to die with sorrow". May he be close to all those who suffer. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Christ was not ashamed to call us his brothers and sisters. May we treat everyone in a Christ like way. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Christmas can easily develop into a time when we give gifts and send cards to people; when we trade annual 'hellos', and then forget all about one another, feeling that we have done our Christian duty.

True love, however, goes far beyond the giving of gifts. It requires the giving of oneself. People want us to share their lives – their hopes, frustrations, joys and sorrows. It is not easy to be present like that, It calls for time, humility, and love.

The first thing is to know their names, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories, to tell one's own story, to let them know with words, handshakes, hugs that you do not simply like them, but that you truly love them.

"The Word became flesh and came to live among us". This is the greatest news of all – that God is present with his people, that he is truly present in the person of Jesus his Son, who is Emmanuel, God with us.