



Liturgy Cycle C

Second Sunday After Christmas **Presence**

Introduction

As we gather to celebrate the Eucharist we become present to one another. And Christ, who took upon himself our human condition, is present among us. Let us bring to him all our sins so that he may remove them. Let us bring to him all our burdens so that he may help us to carry them.

Lord Jesus, by your presence you give light to all those living in darkness.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, by your presence you give us a share in the divine life of the Father.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, by your presence you fill us with grace and truth.

Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (Ecclesiastes 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 of time, 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

Let us turn in prayer to Christ our Brother, who emptied himself to take upon himself our human condition.

R: Lord, save us through your presence.

Through his coming Christ opened the new age which the prophets foretold. May we his followers grow in grace and in truth. We pray to you, O Lord.

R: Lord, save us through your presence.



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At his birth the angels proclaimed peace to the world. May he help all humankind to take the road of peace together. We pray to you, O Lord.

R: Lord, save us through your presence.

Christ spent most of his life working as a village carpenter. May he help all workers to find dignity through their work; may he give courage and hope to those who are unemployed. We pray to you, O Lord.

R: Lord, save us through your presence.

Christ was tempted in every way that we are, yet he remained sinless. May he help us to overcome all our temptations. We pray to you, O Lord.

R: Lord, save us through your presence.

Let us pray:

God our Father, you are the light of every faithful soul. Fill the world with your glory, and reveal to all peoples the splendour of your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Reflection

When God became man

He didn't become a king or a great political leader,

As many thought the Messiah would be.

Instead he became a working man.

The Gospels show us Christ

As a healer, teacher and wonder-worker.

But these activities lasted only three short years.

For the rest of his life on earth

he worked as a village carpenter.

There was nothing spectacular about his work.

He didn't make benches and tables by means of miracles,

But by the hammer and the saw.

And, as far as we know, nothing he made

Ever set any fashion trends or became collector's items.

Though many of us may see our daily tasks as dull and boring,

We must not underestimate their importance.

There is little we can say about them

that God's Son could not say

When he became man and lived among us.

Lord, by your continuing presence with us,

Help us to see the value of our daily tasks,

And to do them faithfully,

So that we too may grow in wisdom,

And in favour both with God and with people.