



Liturgy Cycle C

Eleventh Sunday Of The Year

Gate Crashing The Party

Introduction

We often use our sins as an excuse for not drawing near Christ, especially in Communion. We say: 'I'm a sinner. I'm not worthy.' But in today's Gospel we see a sinful woman draw close to Christ in love and trust to hear from him the words: 'Your sins are forgiven, go in peace.' Let us then approach Christ, sins and all, sure that we will find love and acceptance.

Lord, you raise the dead to life in the spirit.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, you bring pardon and peace to the sinner.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, you bring good news to the poor and the down trodden.
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13)

When challenged with his sin by the prophet Nathan, King David readily admits it and repents. Then the prophet assures him that the Lord has forgiven him.

Second Reading (Gal 2:16, 19-21)

St Paul says that Christ has become his life — the Christ who loved him and died for him. All his strength comes from his belief in and union with Christ.

Gospel (Luke 7:36-8:3)

This tells of the moving encounter in the house of a Pharisee between Christ and a sinful woman. Here we see 'the friend of sinners' in action.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray for some of that understanding and compassion; love that Christ showed to all, but especially to those who were rejected and written off.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For Christians: that they may imitate the patience, tolerance a forgiveness of Christ in all their dealings with others, especially those who are weak and vulnerable. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



Liturgy Cycle C

For all those who make our laws or administer them: that they may be both wise and compassionate in their judgments. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That the Lord may give strength to the afflicted, and give us I will to do everything we can to help and comfort them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For ourselves: that, in his goodness, Christ may turn our hearts to himself and help us do what is right. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray:

Father, our source of life, you know our weakness. May reach out with joy to grasp your hand and walk more readily your ways. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Communion Reflection

The story of Jesus' meeting with the sinful woman shows that he not only sees a person's present state, but also what a person is capable of becoming. Simon and the others looked at the woman, and they saw a sinner who would always be a sinner. Jesus looked at her and saw a sinner who was capable of becoming a saint.

One day someone came upon Michelangelo as he was chipping away with his chisel at a huge shapeless block of marble. He was surrounded by dust and fragments of marble. It was not a pretty sight. He asked him what he was doing, and he replied: 'I'm releasing the angel imprisoned in this marble.'

Jesus is the one who knows the real and complete me. He sees my sins, my failures and betrayals. But he also sees my hidden qualities and talents, my noble ideals and ardent hopes. He can help me to bring to birth the hidden, splendid person that is struggling inside me to be born and to be free.