



Liturgy Cycle C

Twenty-First Sunday Of The Year

The Narrow Gate

Introduction

Christ warned his contemporaries not to pin their hopes of salvation on the mere fact that they were members of God's Chosen People. He urged them to make their way in 'by the narrow gate'. By this he meant they should deny themselves and strive, by the grace of God. To live good lives. We should rely on nothing but God's gratuitous love for us, and our whole aim should be concentrated on returning that love. Let us reflect on this for a moment. Let us ask his forgiveness and the grace to emend our lives.

First Reading (Isaiah 66:18-21)

The author describes Jews making their way back from the ends of the earth to worship in the restored city of Jerusalem. With them they bring non-Jews who join them in worshipping the one God.

Second Reading (Hebrews 12:5-7. 1.1-13)

As a father shows his concern for his son by seeing to it that he receives training in discipline, so God trains his children through suffering so that they may grow to maturity and reach their goal.

Gospel (Luke 13:22-30)

The Kingdom of God is offered not just to the Jews but to people from the four corners of the world. However, only those who follow the path of Jesus will gain access to it-

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that we may traffic in goodness and not in evil, and thus enter the Kingdom through the narrow gate.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all the followers of Jesus: that the faith they proclaim in words may be borne out in their deeds. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all government leaders: that they may strive to promote the well-being of all their people and not just that of a privileged few. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Jewish people: that they may receive Christ as their Saviour and forgive what Christians have done to them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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That we may strive to follow Christ in our daily lives by practising justice and charity towards all we meet. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

**Christ said there are two roads we can follow.
The first is wide and easy to travel.
All you have to do is yield yourself to the current
and you'll be carried along.
In other words - follow the crowd.
It is downhill most of the way.
It is the way of comfort and ease.
It is well lit with glittering neon lights
which offer the traveller all kinds of enjoyments.
Many are fooled and travel down this road.
But in the long run it leads them nowhere.
They die in the desert.**

**The second road is narrow and difficult.
You will often have to go it alone.
It is uphill most of the way.
It is the way of sacrifice and struggle.
At times you will have no light to guide you
save that of the stars.
Few take this road,
But they are the lucky ones.
For eventually the desert sands run out
and the traveller enters with Joy into the Promised Land.**