

# Guardian Angels Catholic Community

February 26, 2017

[www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org](http://www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org)

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**Is 49:14-15; 1 Cor 4:1-5; Matthew 6:24-34**

(everyone joins in with the text in **BOLD**)



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Gathering: #194 Now**

#### GREETING

+In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

The grace and peace of the Living God: Creator;  
Jesus, and Spirit, is with each of you! **And also with you!**

#### PENITENTIAL RITE

Today, on the last Sunday before Lent, we are reminded to seek first the kingdom of God, and how God is the rock of our salvation, our refuge, and our strength. We hear that the anxieties and fears of our lives sometimes cause us to lose focus on what is important. May we use time this day, to hear the words of redirection and be in the now.

Lord Jesus, you bring light to darkness:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ Jesus, you manifest the motives of our hearts:

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you know all that we need:

**Lord, have mercy.**

**ABSOLUTION**

Know that our Merciful God has already forgiven us  
and cleansed us of our sins.

We need only accept this forgiveness + in the name of the  
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

**GLORY/GLORIA** Tim & Julie Smith 1997 Troubadour Productions

Refrain: **Glory! Glory to God! Glory to God in the highest!  
Gloria! Gloria a Dios! Gloria a Dios en el cielo!**

**Women: And peace to God's people on earth**

**Men: Paz en la tierra (repeat)**

**Lord God, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father  
Lord Jesus Christ, Lamb of God only Son of the Father,**

**You take away the sins of the world,  
You are seated at the Father's right hand,  
receive our prayer.**

**You alone are the Holy One. You alone are the Most  
High, Jesus Christ, in the glory of God the Father.**



## OPENING PRAYER

**Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by your peaceful rule and that your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. Help us to focus on your presence in the Now. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, our Lord. AMEN**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### 1st Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

**O God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you.  
Your love is finer than life.**

### 2nd Reading

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Word of God enthroned,  
dwell in us forevermore;  
Love has come to show the way  
Halleluiah, peace be with us  
Love has come to show the way**

With one voice the Angels sing;  
songs that make creation ring  
Prophets hear and call us to  
live in spirit and in truth (refrain)

The Lord is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the holy + Gospel according to.....

**Glory to you, Lord.**

The Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Praise to you Jesus Christ!**

## HOMILY



## PROFESSION OF FAITH

(A creed from the United Church of Canada, 1980)

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus,  
crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**



## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Paul teaches us that we are the stewards of the mysteries of God. As faithful stewards we bring our concerns to the Lord.

\*That we, the Church, continue preaching the good news, leading all by word and deed toward the kingdom of God, even in the face of much opposition, we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

\*That the leaders of all nations encourage faithful stewardship of the earth, guarding against the causes of pollution and environmental waste, we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

\*That the unemployed and the underemployed know the compassion of God as they search for work, we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

\*That the children of the world grow in awareness, joy, and light, we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

\*That all in this gathering be a reflection of welcoming hospitality, we pray: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For what else shall we pray?

For all these spoken prayers  
and for all those unspoken in our hearts, we pray:

**God of all goodness and grace, hear us,  
as faithful stewards of your sacred mysteries.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN**

**Preparation: #163 Table of Plenty**

## SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus you said to your friends, I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Grant that all of God's children may enjoy the peace and unity of your reign where you live forever and ever. **AMEN**

The peace of Jesus is with each of you! **And also with you!**

Let us offer each other a sign of peace and then join together around the Table of the Lord.

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*(Presider lifts paten with bread into hands and says:)*

Blessed are you, God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made, it will become for us the bread of life.

### **Blessed be God forever!**

*(Wine and water are poured into the chalice. Presider says:)*

By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

*(Presider takes chalice and says:)*

Blessed are you, God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become for us our spiritual drink.

### **Blessed be God forever!**

As we prepare to break this bread and share this cup we remember those who journey with us. For those who travel the way of the Hindus, those who follow the path of Buddha, for our sisters and brothers of Islam, for Native peoples everywhere, for the Jewish people from whom we come, for Christians everywhere and for all others who walk this path.

**Holy God, accept this offering,  
for the praise and glory of Your name,  
for our good and the good of all Your people.**

Christ lived and died for love.

Let us remember him with this feast.

**All who seek God and are drawn to Christ  
are welcome at God's table.**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

**Loving God as we come to you an present our gifts, help us to appreciate that you did indeed know our needs and provide for us. Allow our anxieties, worries and doubts to be transformed into faith, hope and love as these gifts presented here are also transformed into your loving presence. We ask this in faith. AMEN**



PREFACE

The Lord is with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, Creator of all, it is right that we give you praise and glory as we come in thanksgiving, for you are the one God, living and true. Source of life, you have blessed all creation in love and in joy. You never cease to call us to a new and more abundant life.

**You invite us to trust in your mercy for you are always ready to forgive us and to gift us with peace when we forgive, too. You ask us to serve the family of God by opening our hearts to the fullness of your Holy Spirit and to proclaim the power of your love.**

In wonder and gratitude, we join our voices with the choirs of angels and saints who have gone before us, as we sing together:

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Loving God, you are holy indeed. All life, all holiness comes from you. We come to thank you for your Son, Jesus for it is through him that we experience your message of total acceptance of all people, a welcome that includes everyone and invites everyone to this Eucharistic table of equals.

**It was Jesus who healed all divisions and recognized You, His Father, present within all of creation. He brought to light your way of compassion and justice, helping us to understand the need to care for each other with dignity and respect.**

He taught us by his life and by his death and resurrection to be true to ourselves, even if we, also, might need to give up everything as he did. For it is in our own dying, that we, too, rise to new life.

*(Presider extends hand over bread and wine and says:)*

So now we remember another table filled with love and thanksgiving – that of the Last Supper. Let your Spirit come upon these our gifts to make them holy so that they may become for us + the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

*(Presider takes bread and says:)*

It was at table with his friends that Jesus took bread and broke it, gave it to his disciples and said,

**Take this, all of you, and eat it.**

**This is my body which will be given up for you.**

*(Presider takes chalice and says:)*

When the supper was ended, again he gave you thanks and praise, gave the cup to his disciples and said,

**Take this, all of you, and drink from it: This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.**

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: (sung)

**When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.**

In memory of his death and resurrection, we offer you, Compassionate God, this life-giving bread, this saving cup. May all of us who share in the body and blood of Christ, be brought together in unity by the Holy Spirit.



One with the love of Christ, and joined with the love of all of us gathered here, we send prayers to all in leadership in every place of worship, especially for our Bishop Francis, and for all who serve the people of God.

**We pray for all countries and their leaders that they may create justice and equality for their peoples; may peace come to our own country as well as to all the troubled lands of our world.**

We pray for all who are sick that health may soon be theirs, especially we pray for all who have died. (pause)

May they be in peace and may they welcome us, one day, into the place of eternal peace.

**In that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, language and way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus Christ the Lord.**



*(Bread and wine are held up as **WE** sing...)*

**Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, for ever and ever. Amen, amen, amen, amen.**

**Amen, amen, amen, amen.**

Let us join hands and pray what Jesus has taught us to pray (chanted):

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;**

**Thy kingdom come thy will be done**

**On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**And forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours**

**Now and forever.**

**BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We break this bread and drink this cup

for the earth we have wasted, for those who have no bread

and for ourselves in our brokenness.

**Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us; Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.**

*(Presider breaks a small piece of host & drops it into chalice saying:)*

May this mingling of the holy body and blood of Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**Jesus, with faith in your love and mercy we receive this Eucharist. Let it bring us health in mind, body and spirit.**

This is Jesus the Christ who taught us how to live.  
Happy are we who are called to his supper.

**May we receive this gift in purity of heart.  
May it bring us healing and strength now and forever.**

Holy Communion is a great privilege, a precious feast. And the host invites us all. "In Christ, there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus." (Gal 3:28) We encourage you to take your place at this holy table, for we understand and acknowledge that this is Christ's table and that this sacred meal is Christ's supper. We are all invited guests. No one is excluded. All are welcomed here!

**Communion Songs: Comm 1: Spirit Song;  
Comm 2: #170 Be Not Afraid**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Nourished by your saving gifts,  
We sing your loving praises that by this Sacrament  
with which you feed us in the now,  
we can be instruments of feeding to others.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord. AMEN**

FINAL BLESSING *Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.*

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams.  
Think not about your frustrations,  
but about your unfulfilled potential.

Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in,  
but with what it is still possible for you to do. –Saint Pope John XXIII

And may our loving God bless you today and always: Father,  
Son + and Holy Spirit. **AMEN**

DISMISSAL

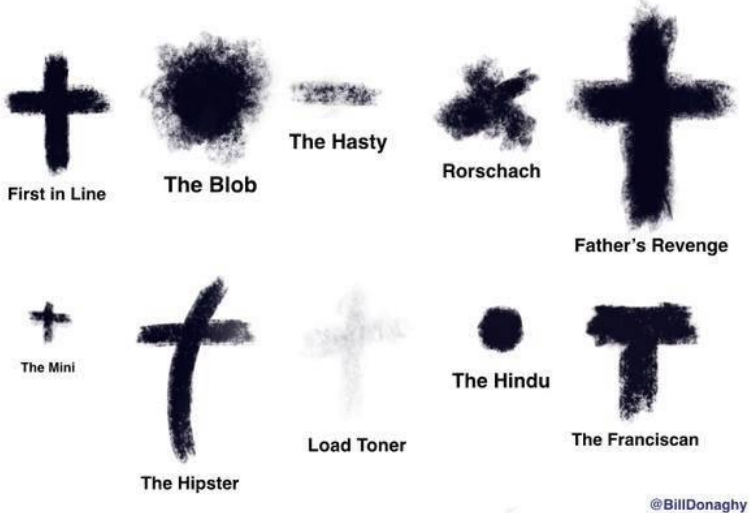
Our mass **never ends**, it must be lived. So let us go forth  
to love and serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!

**ALLELUIA!**

**Sending Forth: #110 Go Ye Out**

**See you on Ash Wednesday!**

## A Catholic Guide to Ashes



The following poem by Kilian McDonnell OSB challenges us to consider what images of perfection we use in our lives.

Perfection, Perfection

*I will walk the way of perfection.* Psalm 101.2

I have had it with perfection.  
I have packed my bags,  
I am out of here.  
Gone

As certain as rain  
will make you wet,  
perfection will do you  
in.

It droppeth not as dew  
upon the summer grass  
to give liberty and green  
joy.

Perfection straineth out  
the quality of mercy,  
withers rapture at its  
birth.

Before the battle is half begun,  
cold probity thinks  
it can't be won, concedes the  
war.

I've handed in my notice,  
given back my keys,  
signed my severance check, I  
quit.

Hints I could have taken:  
Even the perfect chiseled form of  
Michelangelo's radiant David  
squints,

the Venus de Milo  
has no arms,  
the Liberty Bell is  
cracked.

from *Swift, Lord, You Are Not*  
Kilian McDonnell, O.S. B

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***In essentials, unity;  
In nonessentials, diversity;  
In all things, charity.***

Attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo