

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery
within us,
that those you were pleased to make new in
Holy Baptism
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit
and come to the joys of life eternal.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Acts 6:1-7

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
About this time, when the number of disciples
was increasing, the Hellenists made a complaint
against the Hebrews: in the daily distribution
their own widows were being overlooked. So
the Twelve called a full meeting of the disciples
and addressed them, "It would not be right for
us to neglect the word of God so as to give out
food; you, brothers, must select from among
yourselves seven men of good reputation,
filled with the Spirit and with wisdom; we will
hand over this duty to them, and continue to
devote ourselves to prayer and to the service
of the word." The whole assembly approved
of this proposal and elected Stephen, a man
full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, together with
Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas,
and Nicolaus of Antioch, a convert to Judaism.
They presented these to the apostles, who
prayed and laid their hands on them. The word
of the Lord continued to spread: the number of
disciples in Jerusalem was greatly increased,
and a large group of priests made their
submission to the faith.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Ps 32 (33):1-2, 4-5, 18-19

Response:

May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place
all our hope in you.
Or Alleluia!

1. Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
Give thanks to the Lord upon the harp,
with a ten-stringed lute sing him songs. (R.)
2. For the word of the Lord is faithful
and all his works to be trusted.
The Lord loves justice and right
and fills the earth with his love. (R.)
3. The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine. (R.)

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:4-9

A reading from the first letter of St Peter.

The Lord is the living stone, rejected by men
but chosen by God and precious to him; set
yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy
priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices
which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to
God, may be living stones making a spiritual
house. As scripture says: See how I lay in Zion
a precious cornerstone that I have chosen
and the man who rests his trust on it will not
be disappointed. That means that for you who
are believers, it is precious; but for unbelievers,
the stone rejected by the builders has proved
to be the keystone, a stone to stumble over, a
rock to bring men down. They stumble over it
because they do not believe in the word; it was
the fate in store for them. But you are a chosen
race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation,
a people set apart to sing the praises of God
who called you out of the darkness into his
wonderful light.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus said: "I am the Way,
the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except
through me." Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Jn 14:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:
"Do not let your hearts be troubled.
Trust in God still, and trust in me.
There are many rooms in my Father's house;
if there were not, I should have told you.
I am now going to prepare a place for you, and
after I have gone and prepared you a place,
I shall return to take you with me; so that where
I am you may be too.
You know the way to the place where I am going."
Thomas said, "Lord, we do not know where you
are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus
said:
"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
No one can come to the Father except through
me.
If you know me, you know my Father too.
From this moment you know him and have seen
him."
Philip said, "Lord, let us see the Father and then
we shall be satisfied."
"Have I been with you all this time, Philip," said
Jesus to him "and you still do not know me?
"To have seen me is to have seen the Father, so
how can you say, "Let us see the Father?"
Do you not believe that I am in the Father and
the Father is in me?
The words I say to you I do not speak as from
myself: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing

this work. You must believe me when I say that I
am in the Father and the Father is in me; believe
it on the evidence of this work, if for no other
reason.

"I tell you most solemnly, whoever believes in
me will perform the same works as I do myself,
he will perform even greater works, because I
am going to the Father."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow during the next three lines)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who by the wonderful exchange effected
in this sacrifice
have made us partakers of the one supreme
Godhead,
grant, we pray,
that, as we have come to know your truth,
we may make it ours by a worthy way of life.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

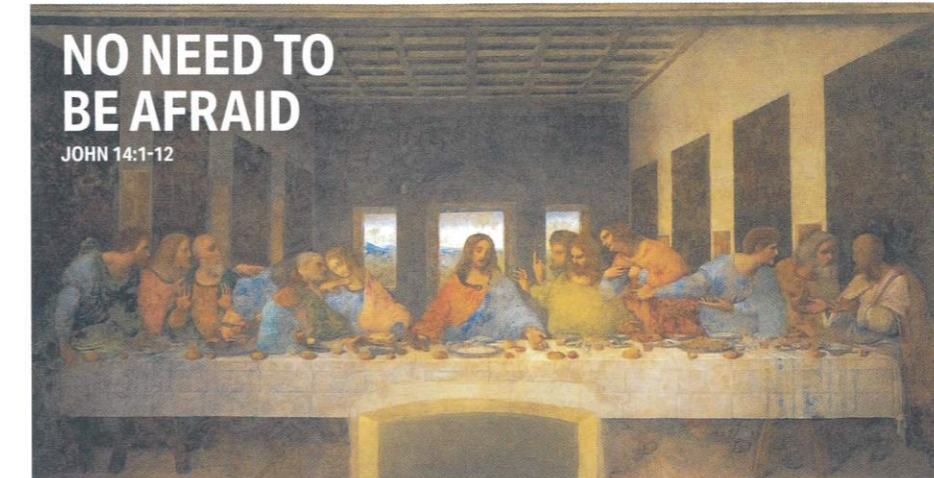
COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears
fruit in plenty, alleluia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Graciously be present to your people, we pray,
O Lord,
and lead those you have imbued with heavenly
mysteries
to pass from former ways to newness of life.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Sunday Message

THE WORD

Today's Gospel is taken from the last great discourse in John's Gospel, known as the Farewell Discourse, and is Jesus' final teaching to his disciples at the Last Supper.

Jesus looks to the future. He comforts those he is leaving behind. They are to trust in God as he did. They will all be reunited in the Father's house. In ancient times, when a group of travellers needed accommodation for the night, they often sent one of their number ahead to reserve a place in the inn. Jesus comforts his disciples by telling them that the accommodation in the Father's house is more luxurious than that of a rough and ready inn. It has many rooms, so they shouldn't worry about being refused entry. Jesus will return when the place is prepared to take them with him.

Some of the disciples are puzzled. If they don't know where Jesus is going, Thomas asks, how will they find the way? Jesus replies with one of the great 'I AM' sayings: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no one can come to the Father except through me." Just as he is the gate that offers protection and freedom of movement for his flock to the pastures of eternal life, he is also the way to God. To know Jesus is to know the Father. To follow his way and know his truth is to receive eternal life. ■

REFLECT

There is much talk about truth these days. We hear about fake news and deliberate misinformation and the efforts of online bots and trolls to mislead and confuse people. Some politicians dismiss any uncomfortable facts or stories they don't like as 'fake news.' The advent of Artificial Intelligence technologies will make it even more difficult to distinguish what is genuine from what is not. We won't be sure if a video of a politician making an inflammatory statement or purporting to show someone in a compromising position is real or is 'deep fake.' We will need to be constantly on our guard because it will be increasingly difficult to separate what is true from what is false.

For us Christians, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. Follow his way and we will never be led astray. For us Christians, the highest form of truth is love of God and humankind; for whenever love is realised, God is present.

Pope Francis told a general audience in Rome in 2018 that "truth is not spoken so much with a speech. It is a way of being, a way of living, and you see it in every single word." Theologian Fr Tomas Halik says Jesus wasn't interested in how much of the Jewish law people knew but only in whether they kept the law of love. "If you hold to my teaching," Jesus told his followers, "then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Follow Jesus' teaching by living a life of love, and we will live lives that are true.

This is what Alexei Navalny tried to do. A human rights lawyer and one of Vladimir Putin's most prominent opponents, Alexei grew up an atheist in the old communist Soviet Union but became a Christian. He was inspired especially by the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, and the beatitude, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for what is right. Alexei hungered for what is right and it became his motivation. In prison he decided to learn off

DO

There is so much fake news on social media nowadays. Think about how you consume news. Are you easily misled or misinformed? How might you better protect yourself and your loved ones from fake news and deliberate distortion?

PRAY

Today's Gospel is popular at funerals. Pray for your deceased loved ones, that they may enjoy eternal life in the Father's house.

SAY

"Lord, help me to follow your way,
live your truth, and model my life
on yours. Amen."

LEARN

If we want to know what God is like, we need look no further than Jesus

Jesus shows us the way to salvation

God has made us a chosen race, a royal
priesthood

For Christians, the highest form of truth is love
of God and humankind

by heart all 111 verses of the Sermon on the Mount and to do so in four languages, Russian, French, English and Latin. He wanted to imprint God's word on his heart.

Alexei endured years of intimidation, imprisonment, and brutality because of his commitment to justice and truth. He died mysteriously in prison in the Arctic circle on 16 February 2024, aged 48, because the Putin regime was afraid of him.

Here was a man who believed in the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and witnessed to it, even at the cost of his freedom and of his life. He knew that the highest form of truth is love of God and neighbour.

Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Know his truth, follow his lead, live his way, and we will enjoy life in the heavenly kingdom. No fake news or deliberate misinformation will ever derail our path. ■