



Diocese of
OWENSBORO

LITURGY OF THE WORD- NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HYMN

Christ Be Beside Me

(sung to the tune of "Morning Has Broken")

**Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.**

INTRODUCTION

All sign themselves with the sign of the cross saying, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Leader: Let us praise God, who fills our hearts and home with peace.
Blessed be God for ever.

All respond: Blessed be God for ever.

Sing or recite the *Gloria* together:

**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.**

Leader: Let us pray,

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

READINGS

It is encouraged that someone other than the leader should proclaim the readings of the day from a Bible. Otherwise, daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings, and audio recordings of the daily readings may be found at usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm.

First reading: 1 Kings 19:9A, 11-13A

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

Refrain (all together): **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

I will hear what God proclaims;
the LORD — for he proclaims peace.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.

Refrain (all together): **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

Refrain (all together): **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and prepare the way of his steps.

Refrain (all together): **Lord, let us see your kindness, and grant us your salvation.**

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel (All stand for the reading of the Gospel. A layperson omits the greeting, “The Lord be with you” and proceeds to “A reading from the holy Gospel According to”): Matthew 14:22-33

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from Fr. Ken Mikulcik, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Russellville, and Director of Formation for the Diaconate:

The readings for this weekend remind me of two experiences of Mammoth Cave National Park. The first was quite a few years ago when I decided to go backwoods camping on my own in the park. I got my hiking and camping gear ready and hiked a few miles from my car to one of the campsites on the side of a hill and set up my tent. I was not too far from the Nolin River. I do not remember seeing anyone during that hike so it was an experience of solitude. That evening a thunderstorm developed, and, in addition to the rain and wind, there was a lot of lightning. I do not remember ever feeling as exposed to the weather as I was that night. A tent underneath trees feels very fragile with the wind and bright flashes of lightning and sharp cracks of thunder. One does not have to listen closely to experience that. It is thrust upon a person.

The second experience was hiking along a trail in the park during a pleasant fall day. It was a leisurely hike on the north end of the park. The challenge was that it was also a horse trail, and I was on foot. One person who passed by on horseback asked me what happened to my horse, and I responded by asking if they had an extra. No one did. The perspective from hiking and from horseback riding is somewhat different – same trail, different experiences. On horseback one is higher up from the ground, one does not feel the slope of the hills as a personal effort, nor is the weight of one’s gear noticeable on one’s feet. One is attentive to the vista in general and the experience of the horse’s manner on the trail. From the ground level of the hiker one notices the hills and their slopes and the weight of one’s gear. One also notices and avoids what the horses leave behind. Moving more slowly and being closer to the smaller things on the ground, the hiker is likely to see details that would be missed from the perspective of a horse. What I noticed that day were somewhat uncommon plants along the way including native burning bush, wintergreen, and downy rattlesnake plantain (an orchid). There is a great deal of subtlety in such plants and their habitats. One can notice big impressive trees, the general landscape of the forest, and the waterways, but one can also notice the hidden treasures of small flowering plants emerging out from the leaf litter next to a mossy stump. For such an experience one has to “listen” a little more intently than with a thunderstorm.

Our two examples in the readings for this weekend involve hearing the Lord’s voice in a “tiny whispering sound,” as opposed to the “strong and heavy wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks” and in the voice of Jesus saying “come” while Peter grew fearful sensing the strength of the wind on the water. Both experiences involve the mountain of prayer – Elijah on the mountain of God, Horeb, and Jesus spending the night in prayer on the mountain after spending himself curing and feeding many people. Peter is moved to follow Jesus even onto the chaos of the stormy waters, but he is weak, and the wind was strong. Our lives too have strong winds that bear upon us at times. Perhaps they are illnesses or insecurity regarding work, conflicts with family or in the workplace, inner difficulties from unresolved hurts and many other possibilities. Listening attentively to the Lord at those times means being faithful to time on the mountain of prayer to listen to Him. God can speak to us in all

circumstances, but that is not an excuse not to go to that quiet place of prayer and undivided attention to the Lord. Prayer leads us from focusing upon our own strength struggling against the force of the wind to Jesus' presence when we call out, "Lord, save me!"

Additionally, you can also find video reflections from the USCCB on the readings here: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/reflections/>.

Observe a period of silence for reflection on the Word of God. You may want to ask the following questions:

What word or phrase is stirring in your heart?
How can you apply this message to your daily life?

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us give glory to the great God, presenting our needs with trust and confidence.

You or members of your family can be invited to speak out their intercessions, to which all reply, "Lord, hear our prayer." It would be good to include a prayer for the end of the coronavirus pandemic and a return to public Sunday Eucharist.

Leader: God of infinite mercy, hear the prayers of your people — who give praise for all the good things that come from you, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Response: Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Make a prayer of thanksgiving. This can be your own personal prayer of thanksgiving, a canticle of praise from scripture, or you may choose one of the following Psalms: Psalm 100; Psalm 113; Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29; Psalm 136; Psalm 150

CONCLUDING RITE

In solidarity with our diocese, here you could include Pope Francis' prayer to Mary for protection against the coronavirus found at the beginning of the *Diocese of Owensboro Prayer Companion*.

Leader: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

All sign themselves with the cross.

Response: Amen

As an option here, you could add "Let us offer each other the sign of peace," extending a sign of Christ's peace to your loved ones by way of a hug, kiss, or whatever would be most appropriate for your situation.

HYMN

Christ Be Beside Me

(sung to the tune of "Morning Has Broken")

**Christ be in all hearts thinking about me;
Christ be on all tongues telling of me.
Christ be the vision in eyes that see me;
In ears that hear me, Christ ever be.**

St. Patrick, 372—466, tr. James Quinn. © 1970, OCP. Used with permission under OneLicense.net A702420.

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