



Diocese of  
OWENSBORO

## LITURGY OF THE WORD TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### HYMN

*You, Lord, Are Both Lamb And Shepherd*  
(sung to the tune of “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”)

**You, Lord, are both Lamb and Shepherd, you, Lord, are both prince and slave/  
You, peacemaker and swordbringer of the way you took and gave.  
You, the everlasting instant; you, whom we both scorn and crave.**

**Clothed in light upon the mountain, stripped of might upon the cross,  
Shining in eternal glory,. Beggared by a soldier’s toss.  
You, the everlasting instant; you who are both gift and cost.**

### 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,

O God, who manifest your almighty power  
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,  
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us  
and make those hastening to attain your promises  
heirs to the treasures of heaven.  
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](http://usccb.org/bible/readings), and audio recordings of the daily readings  
may be found at [usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm](http://usccb.org/bible/readings-audio.cfm).

*First reading:* Ezekiel 18:25-28

*Responsorial Psalm:* Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

Refrain (all together): **Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

Refrain (all together): **Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,  
and your love are from of old.  
The sins of my youth and my frailties remember not;  
in your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O LORD.

Refrain (all together): **Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Good and upright is the LORD;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,  
and teaches the humble his way.

Refrain (all together): **Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

*Second Reading:* Philippians 2:1-11

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 21:28-32

## REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

This week we have a reflection from Charlie Hardesty, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Owensboro:

What kind of person do you wish to be?

This past weekend, my son and daughter got to start having soccer games again for the first time since the start of the pandemic. Needless to say, the players were all a bit rusty and out of breath during the games. After the games were over, I wanted to affirm my son on his effort on the field and even offer some insight into things he could be working on for his improvement. While we were walking to the car, he spotted a player from the opposing team, which we had just defeated handily. Nolan did not know the young person, but quickly spoke up to congratulate his opponent on how well he had played during the game. Suddenly my insight for my son’s improvement of play didn’t matter so much to me as a father. I was overcome with pride in the kind of person my son was instead of caring about how he had played.

Perfection can be a strong driving force in today’s society. We want to do well, please others, be liked, be successful, and achieve our goals. There is nothing wrong with much of this motivation until we lose sight of the fact that true perfection is unattainable. We are destined to fall short time and time again. The pressure of perfection, at its extreme, can lead us to false living, a façade, painting a picture of our lives that’s not real, cheating to get ahead, and even wishing the failure of those around us.

In the Gospel for today, we hear about two sons. The first was outwardly quick to make the wrong choice, but inside was moved to do the right thing. The second was outwardly able to fake the right thing, but inside was unmoved to do right. Both made mistakes, but the first one was quick to reflect and then do right. His inside was oriented towards listening to his father and doing what was right. His choice reflected a surrender of his own desire to instead do what was being asked of him.

I wish we knew more about the story of the two sons. I wonder what caused the first one to say no at first to his father’s request to go work in the vineyard. Regardless of the cause, his immediate selfishness was undone when he later decided it was better to focus on what he had been asked to do.

When we fail to be who we are called to be, when in the moment we make a bad choice motivated by fear or selfishness, or whatever, that doesn’t have to be the end of the story. There is always a chance to reorient our focus and make a choice to love in a way that will make our heavenly Father proud.

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

*You, Lord, Are Both Lamb And Shepherd*

**Worthy is our earthly Jesus! Worthy is our cosmic Christ!  
Worthy your defeat and victory. Worthy still your peace and strife.  
You, the everlasting instant; you who are our death and life.**

Sylvia Dunstan

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