

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you give yourself to heal us and bring us strength:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
May almighty God have mercy on us....Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glorify 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.



OPENING PRAYER

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33: 7 - 9

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows, 'Son of man, I have appointed you as sentry to the House of Israel. When you hear a word from my mouth, warn them in my name. If I say to a wicked man: Wicked wretch, you are to die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked man to renounce his ways, then he shall die for his sin, but I will hold you responsible for his death. If, however, you do warn a wicked man to renounce his ways and repent, and he does not repent, then he shall die for his sin, but you yourself will have saved your life.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 94:1-2, 6-9

R. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord. **[R]**

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low; let us kneel before the God who made us for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture, the flock that is led by his hand. **[R]**

3. O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert when your fathers put me to the test; when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **[R]**

SECOND READING Romans 13: 8 - 10

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Avoid getting into debt, except the debt of mutual love. If you love your fellow men you have carried out your obligations. All the commandments: You shall not commit adultery, you shall not kill, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and so on, are summed up in this single command: You must love your neighbour as yourself. Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Matthew 18: 15 - 20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples: 'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector. 'I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven.'

'I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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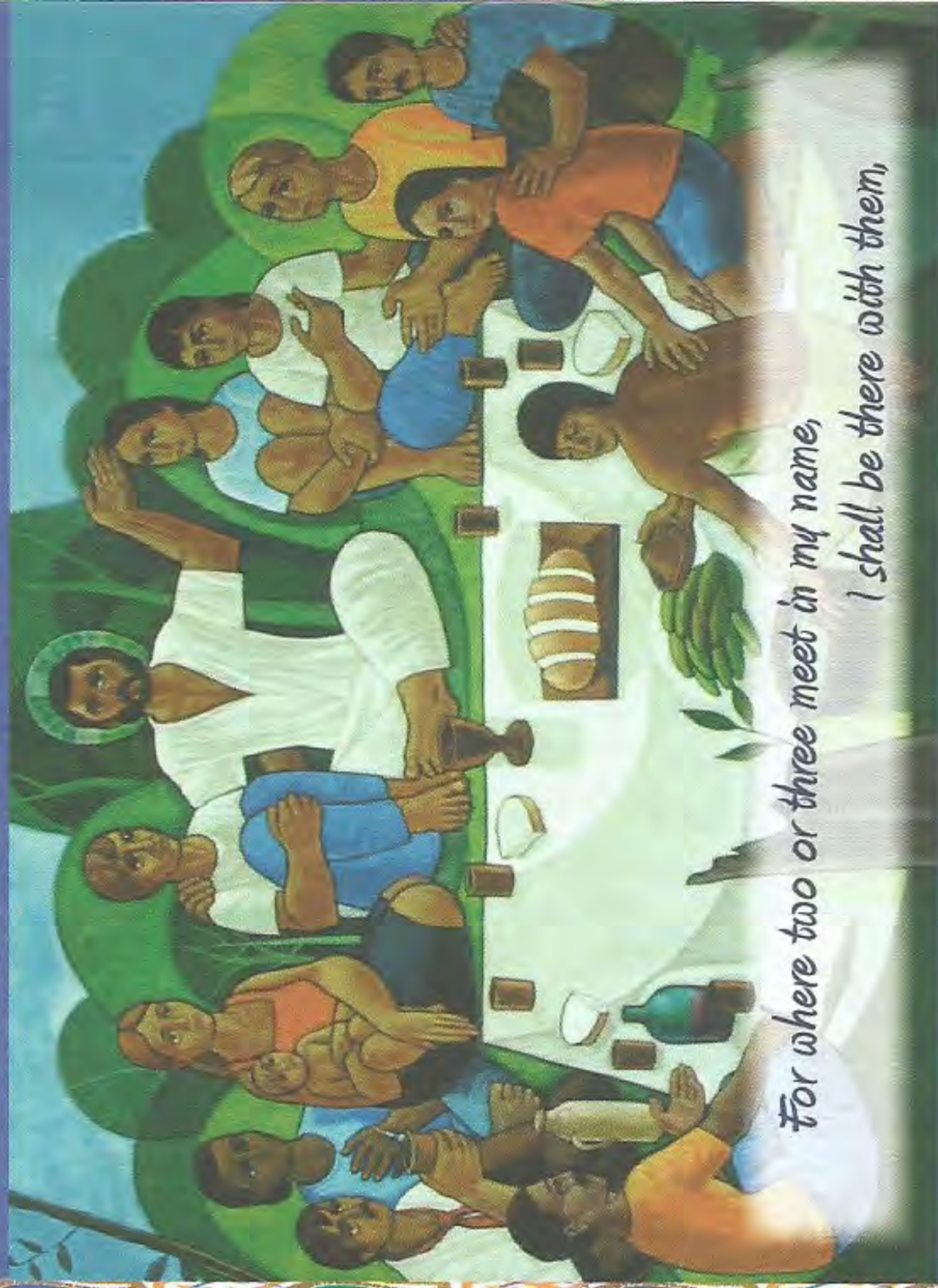
I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with



focus on sunday

TWENTY - THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 6th September 2020

The gospel message is one of joy, rooted in the love and care of Christ for everyone. Today Jesus spells out our Christian family duty - to have a responsibility towards each other: we cannot stand by idly and watch others harm themselves.



For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them,



Tough words today about correction. We don't like the idea of people telling us off or trying to change us. We can see it in the wide perspective of the influence of a community or group, and of the call of Jesus to help us become better disciples.

He knows it's a difficult area, so he offers different ways of keeping us all on the safe path. If you are concerned about someone talk to them directly, and then to just one or two people, and only later go to the community. This comes from the sensitivity of Jesus and from his desire to bring people to the better life through love and compassion.

A principal work of the gospel of Jesus is to encourage each other. An apostle, Barnabas, was known as the 'son of encouragement'. In trying to help each other come to closer following of Jesus, an ounce of encouragement is worth a ton of exhortation! We often find that when, for example, we are trying to help a person in drug or gambling addiction: lectures don't work.

All the commandments of Jesus and his way of dealing with us are done in the name of love. The second reading sums it up - 'Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour; that is why it is the answer to every one of the commandments'.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger

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