

We Respond

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ENTRANCE ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 144)

ANTIPHON: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

RESPONSE: I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

LECTOR: I will give you glory, O God my King, I will bless your name for ever. I will bless you day after day and praise your name for ever. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. **R.**

LECTOR: All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord, and your friends shall repeat their blessing. They shall speak of the glory of your reign and declare your might, O God. **R.**

LECTOR: The Lord is faithful in all his words and loving in all his deeds. The Lord supports all who fall and raises all who are bowed down. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth; you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (or a hymn) Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Or

Come to me, all who labour and are burdened, and I will refresh you, says the Lord.

TODAY'S READINGS Zechariah 9:9-10; Romans 8:9, 11-13; Matthew 11:25-30.

NEXT WEEK (15th Sunday of Year A) Is 55:10-11; Ps 64; Rom 8:18-23; Mt 13:1-23

*Brighten up
your day with
The Majellan*

NAIDOC Week 2020 was supposed to be held in July but because of the ongoing Covid 19 pandemic, it has been cancelled. Organisers hope to reschedule NAIDOC Week 2020 towards the end of the year.

Further details and subscription rates from www.majellan.media

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*Jesus provides
a helping
hand*



5 July 2020 14th Sunday Year A

Jesus was not easily shocked, but Matthew's gospel captures the shock of Jesus at the failure of his ministry even in his own small town of Capernaum. In the extraordinary passage preceding today's gospel, he says with hyperbole that Capernaum will share the fate of other ancient wicked cities like Sodom.

Matthew has Jesus reflecting on people's experience of coming to faith in him. The context is important. Matthew is writing for his Jewish Christian community expelled from the synagogue. These Christians were steeped in Jewish tradition and the Hebrew Scriptures and would have recognised that Matthew was writing in terms of their wisdom literature, implying Jesus is the Wisdom of God who knows the Father intimately and reveals the Father to believers.

But God has hidden Jesus' message from the 'wise and learned', the experts in Jewish Law and tradition, the scribes and Pharisees. Instead, the people who embraced the person of Jesus were the ordinary people who through God's good pleasure, his mysterious grace, experienced faith in Jesus as liberating them from the heavy burden, the 'yoke' of trying to observe the minutiae of Jewish religious custom and ritual.

Jesus uses the words 'little children', meaning not children but the unpretentious

people who knew their need of God and whose hearts were open to God's Holy Spirit, but because of their poverty or life circumstances were not numbered among the ritually clean or devout. The words and actions of Jesus resonated in their hearts. The invitation of Jesus is not to those who felt self-satisfied or perfect in their religious observance, but to those who did not 'measure up', and who struggled with failure like Jesus himself at Capernaum'. Jesus's invitation is deeply personal, but his promise of 'rest' is not for an easy life. It is the promise of eternal life in God.

Jesus understands the yearnings of our hearts and is not full of self-importance. Jesus offers us friendship.

This Gospel passage is important for us today since it stresses that the invitation of Jesus is not for the perfect or those who scrupulously observe religious practices. It is for all of us who do not fully 'measure up'.

As Pope Francis reminds us, Jesus walks with all of us as we journey through life, especially in times of failure or distress. Francis says it is not how much we stumble that finally matters, but that we can sense Jesus helping us up again and continuing to stay with us on our unique and precious journey.

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