

**Affirmation Prayer...**

Christ is the love of God made manifest for us:  
come, let us adore him!

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**  
**Alleluia!**

**Hymn** **Meter: SM**

O taste and you will see  
The goodness of the Lord:  
Humanity, divinity,  
The Body and the Blood.  
God fed his wand'ring fold  
With manna from the sky.  
Much better This than bread of old—  
We eat and never die.  
Elijah once was fed  
When he could walk no more.  
An angel brought to him that bread—  
The angels This adore.  
For those who would be filled,  
This Food is Life indeed.  
To give it, Life himself was killed,  
And we from death are freed.  
O, worthy is the Lamb,  
The slain and risen Lord,  
The son of Mary, God and man,  
Our Eucharist adored.

**Psalm** **105: 1-5, 8-9, 40-43**

*No one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes  
and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church,  
because we are members of his body.*  
*(Eph 5:29-30)*

*God has demonstrated his unswerving love for his  
people down through the centuries. How, then, can  
we doubt his promise that Christ nourishes and  
cherishes us, the Church, his people, members of  
his own Body, whom he feeds with his own life?  
And how can we not love in return?*

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works!  
Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.  
Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgments he spoke.  
He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.  
When they asked for food he sent quails;  
he filled them with bread from heaven.  
He pierced the rock to give them water;  
it gushed forth in the desert like a river.  
For he remembered his holy word,  
which he gave to Abraham his servant.  
So he brought out his people with joy,  
his chosen ones with shouts of rejoicing.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Word of God** **1 John 4:9-10**

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:  
God sent his only Son into the world so that we  
might have life through him. In this is love: not that  
we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent  
his Son as expiation for our sins.

God proves his love for us in that while we were  
still sinners Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

**Canticle of Zechariah**

*We love because he first loved us.* (1 Jn 4:19)

**All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he  
has come to his people and set them free. He  
has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of  
the house of his servant David.**

Through his holy prophets he promised of old  
that he would save us from our enemies, from  
the hands of all who hate us. He promised to  
show mercy to our fathers and to remember his  
holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father  
Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our  
enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy  
and righteous in his sight all the days of our  
life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the  
Most High; for you will go before the Lord to  
prepare his way, to give his people knowledge  
of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn  
from on high shall break upon us, to shine on  
those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of  
death, and to guide our feet into the way of  
peace.

**All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the  
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

**Intercessions**

Beloved by God, members of Christ, we dare to  
pray:

**R/ Hear us, O Lord!**

For all married couples: make them strong  
witnesses of your love for your people. **R/**

For all who do not know your love for them: let  
them see you in the love of others. **R/**

For all whom you have nourished with the Body  
and Blood of Christ: let them live the love they  
have received from you. **R/**

**Personal intentions**

**All: Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be  
Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be  
done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this  
day, our daily bread, and forgive us our  
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. And lead us not into temptation, but  
deliver us from evil.**

God of love, you sent us your only Son as the gift of life. Reawaken in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love, that we may bear faithful witness to the truth of the Gospel and the power of your Word, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SUNDAY, August 22, 2021**  
**Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Reading 1**                      **Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b**

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together at Shechem; then he called the elders, leaders, judges and scribes of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Then Joshua said to all the people, 'If you will not serve the Lord, choose today whom you wish to serve, whether the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are now living. As for me and my House, we will serve the Lord.'

The people answered, 'We have no intention of deserting the Lord and serving other gods! Was it not the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors out of the land of Egypt, the house of slavery, who worked those great wonders before our eyes and preserved us all along the way we travelled and among all the peoples through whom we journeyed? What is more, the Lord drove all those peoples out before us, as well as the Amorites who used to live in this country. We too will serve the Lord, for he is our God.'

**Reading 2**                      **Ephesians 5:21-32**

Give way to one another in obedience to Christ. Wives should regard their husbands as they regard the Lord, since as Christ is head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife; and as the Church submits to Christ, so should wives to their husbands, in everything. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with a form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

**Gospel**

**John 6:60-69**

After hearing his doctrine many of the followers of Jesus said, 'This is intolerable language. How could anyone accept it?' Jesus was aware that his followers were complaining about it and said, 'Does this upset you? What if you should see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before?'

'It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh has nothing to offer. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. 'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from the outset those who did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. He went on, 'This is why I told you that no one could come to me unless the Father allows him.' After this, many of his disciples left him and stopped going with him.

Then Jesus said to the Twelve, 'What about you, do you want to go away too?' Simon Peter answered, 'Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life, and we believe; we know that you are the Holy One of God.'

**Men of St. Joseph Prayer**

**All: St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!**

***Prayer for the text used with permission of Magnificat***