



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

*“You have the words of eternal life
- you are the Holy One of God.”*

Our liturgy begins with a blessing of Light and lighting a home candle. This is followed by the First Reading, Psalm and Gospel for this Sunday; a reflection, the Apostles' Creed, Intercessions and the Our Father. Hymn options are in **blue** with a Youtube link.

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Amene.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Lighting our home candle

Me ĭnoi tatou,

Whakapaingia i ā koe, e te Atua, Matua o te rama, te Kaihanga o te Ao.

Let us pray,

Blessed are you, Lord, God of light, Creator of the Universe.

Gather us near to you on this holy day.

May the warmth and light of this flame remind us of your love and presence,
God with us, through the Risen Christ.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Christ be our Light (Farrell) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=caA4sIXkD44>

Christ be our Light shine in our hearts shine through the darkness

Christ be our Light shine in your church gathered today

First Reading from Joshua

(Chapter 24.1-2a, 15-17)

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God.

And Joshua said to all the people,
“If you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve,
whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the
gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living.

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord
to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our
ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did
those great signs in our sight.

God protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples
through whom we passed. Therefore, we also will serve the Lord, for he is our
God.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 34

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

I will bless the LORD
God’s praise be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear and be glad.

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Glorify the LORD with me,
together we’ll praise God’s name.
I sought the Lord, who answered me
Delivered me from my fears

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

Look to God and be radiant with joy,
and your face will not blush with shame.
Afflicted ones call out to God,
From all your distress you are saved.

Response: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

From the Gospel of John

(Chapter 6.53, 60-69)

Jesus said to the people: "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."

When many of his disciples heard this, they said: "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"

But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?"

It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.
The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
But among you there are some who do not believe."

For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. Because of this many of his disciples turned back, and no longer went about with him.

So - Jesus asked the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom can we go?
You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."

Some Discussion Points/Reflection Starters

Who is Jesus for you?

What title or name do you use?

What makes you comfortable or uneasy with Jesus?

"A moment of crisis is a moment of choice, it is a moment that puts us in front of the decisions we have to make," he said. Peter's response with a confession of faith is an example of faith and trust amid a crisis. Peter responded: "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

This helps all of us to live through moments of crisis. This pandemic is also a time of social crisis. In times of crisis, be very firm in the conviction of faith."

- Pope Francis, May 2020

Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended into hell;
on the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer

Prayer suggestions - pray together or take a prayer each

1. We pray and give thanks for the blessings that we have received as New Zealanders, working towards the health and safety of each other.

All: E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou /Lord hear us

2. We pray in thanks for the diversity of our communities, may we learn to reflect on the ways that we allow kindness, empathy, understanding and love to prevail.

All: E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou /Lord hear us

3. We pray that what we have learnt from these unprecedented times and that the blessings become part of our everyday lives.

All: E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou /Lord hear us

4. We ask you to help us be more vigilant at this time as we practice safety and hygiene in a way that keeps our communities well.

All: E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou /Lord hear us

5. We pray for guidance as we give back to our environment in order for it to give to us, that it replenishes us in the way that we need it to.

All: E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki ā mātou /Lord hear us

Please add your own prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Everyone prays this together

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

Kua akona nei tātou e tō tātou Ariki,
ka inoi tātou

E tō mātou Matua i te rangi
Kia tapu tōu Ingoa.
Kia tae mai tōu rangatiratanga.
Kia meatia tāu e pai ai
ki runga ki te whenua.
kia rite anō ki tō te rangi.

Hōmai ki a mātou āianeī
he taro mā mātou mō tēnei rā.

Murua ō mātou hara,
Me mātou hoki e muru nei
i ō te hunga e hara ana ki a mātou.

Āua hoki mātou e kawea kia
whakawaia
Engari whakaorangia mātou i te kino:
Nōu hoki te rangatiratanga,
te kaha, me te korōria,
Āke ake ake. Āmene.

E tō mātou Matua (sung Our Father with words) -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIyK7c_Az8g

Blessing & Sending

(together)

Liberating Spirit, go with us this week.
Be our assurance in times of doubt.
Be our patience with each other.
Be our champion as we minister to our world.
Be our strength in living God's love.

Hymn: Be not Afraid (Dufford)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oSiX1WKg4w>

Ki te ingoa o te Matua, o te Tamaiti, o te Wairua Tapu. Amene.

Holy One of God,
you built up galaxies from nothing at all,
and wheat fields from barren earth.

You come to us too as the
grain of the land:
our bread
our life.

You
ask if
we could
ever leave you.

Well,

where would we go?
Others have no Spirit or life.

Please set our hearts on fire with your love!

Help us to always choose to love you
in every joy and every sorrow,
in all your hungry people,
in a crying earth,
always love,
always!

Anne Osdieck