**Morning Praise @ Home 2nd June 2024**

**Opening prayer**

Blessed are you, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing; enable us by your power to be true to our calling and live holy and blameless lives before you all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen**

**Confession** Let us admit to God the sin which always confronts us.

**Lord God, we have sinned against you; we have done evil in your sight. We are sorry and**

**repent.** **Have mercy on us according to your love. Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us**

**from our sin.** **Renew a right spirit within us** **and restore us to the joy of your salvation,** **through**

**Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen** cf Psalm 51

**Absolution** May the Father of all mercies cleanse us from our sins, and restore us in his image

to the praise and glory of his name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### Bible Reading Mark 10:32 – 45

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**Reflection from John**

For those who want to make it to the top its often said:

It’s a “dog eat dog world” and we’re all in the “rat race.” “Nice guys finish last,” and we’ve got to “look out for number one!”

In contrast Jesus says to his friends - “But it is not so among you.” And he didn’t just say it, he lived and died it so that we could be free from the need to be great over others. We become our best by being like Jesus, who was a servant and slave, committed to the flourishing of the whole world.

Today the disciples are on the way to Jerusalem. Jesus was walking ahead of them. He takes them aside and begins to prepare them for what would happen in Jerusalem.

He tells them starkly that when they get to Jerusalem “the Son of Man” will be handed over to the chief priests and Scribes. He goes on to say that he will be mocked, spat on and condemned to death. However, after three days, He will rise again!

Imagine the disciples’ reaction to these statements.

They clearly knew that Jesus was a controversial person. But they were stunned at the possibility of arrest, condemnation and death. This was simply beyond their comprehension. And though they knew that Jesus was in danger, they didn’t want to listen to what he was saying. In the middle of this James and John – bold as brass – come to Jesus and say: “Teacher, we want you to do whatever we ask.”

Here are two of his disciples literally ordering Jesus around! Talk about brazen!

They said nothing to him about the prediction of his death. They simply wanted to ensure that they would have a place at Jesus’ right and left hands when finally he is in his glory. Talk about self-centred! We’d never say anything like that, would we? Would we?

Were James and John not concerned about the danger to Jesus? Did they not care that He no longer would be with them? Apparently not! Their focus was solely on their own future!

Understandably, the other disciples were extremely upset with James and John. Who did they think they were? Did they truly believe they were better than the other disciples? They all had been faithful followers of Jesus. Why did they think they were special? Jesus then tells James and John that they clearly do not understand what they are asking. He bluntly asks them: “Are you truly willing to drink from the cup that I will have to drink from?”

How very human the disciples were! Most often they thought only of themselves. Apparently, they did not have a clue of the path that Jesus would have to walk. Yet they knew there were plots against him. Still, their self-centeredness prevailed. They were only concerned about their future.  
  
When we pray or talk with Jesus, do we do all the talking? Or do we quiet down, open our hearts and listen to Jesus? Jesus has much that he wants to say to us. Or perhaps he simply desires to be in our presence and have our full attention. Today will we do all the talking? Or will we stop and listen for a while?

Jesus also desires that we be servants to one another. Are we willing to serve others as Jesus served them? If we do, most likely we may receive more than we give. Jesus clearly wants his disciples to follow in his footsteps and to love as deeply as he loved.  
  
Almost every day we are faced with a choice and an opportunity. Will we serve the people we encounter today? Or will we simply go on our merry way? What a loss that would be! Who knows, if we are attentive and alert, we will meet Jesus several times as we serve him in other people! Be alert – he is here!

**Affirmation of faith**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known in the world?

**We believe and trust in him. This is the faith of the Church.**

**This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen**

**Prayers of intercession**

Living Lord,

Thank you that you came not to be served but to serve and to give your life as a ransom for many.

Give us grace to overcome our capacity for being self-centred and instead to choose to serve those

around us. Open our eyes to the needs that confront us each day and help us to meet you as we

engage with those who need friendship, love and care.

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**.

Lord of the World,

We pray for those who govern in our nation as we anticipate the General Election in July. Give to all

who serve in the political institutions of our land a new sense of what it means to be public servants.

Restrain the hunger for power among leaders which distorts our democratic life. Prosper the efforts

of all those who serve in hospitals, the fire and ambulance services and the police force as they face

challenging situations in their daily work.

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**.

Lord of the Church,

We pray for the local churches in our communities that each one may have a renewed sense of its

calling to represent the Lord Jesus to all who live and work around us. Give us grace not only to grow

as disciples of Jesus but to be those who in turn help a new generation to become his disciples. We

pray especially for the Parish of Ellesmere Port in our Deanery as they welcome their new Rector

Rachel and her young family this weekend.

Lord in your mercy; **Hear our prayer**.

A special prayer for ourselves:

Lord of transforming love,

We marvel that you are able to accept in us what we cannot even acknowledge, you have named in

us what we cannot bear to speak of, you hold out to us a beauty and a glory we can barely imagine.

Deepen in us a deep sense of the reality of your love which is etched in the story of the cross so that

we may be set free from all that has been negatively planted in our souls. Help us each day to stand

on the dignity of being the cherished offspring of the God of amazing grace, through Jesus Christ our

Lord. **Amen.**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

**The Lord’s Prayer** As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

***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 today our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen***

**Closing prayer**

God give you grace to become the people He has called you to be, that you may live and work to his praise and glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us always. **Amen**