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Receive and build the Kingdom

Receive and build the Kingdom

Father, we adore You, lay our lives before You, how we love You.

 Jesus, … Spirit, …

Following the choice of the first disciples, Jesus began to travel through Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and proclaiming the kingdom and healing the people of all their illness. His fame went through all of Syria and they brought to Him all manner of illness and He cured them. And great multitudes followed Him when He came to Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the whole of Jordan.

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| “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness” (Mt 9, 35).“After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women (...). These women were helping to support them out of their own means.**”** (Lk 8,1) |

We can see from this text that the essential point of Jesus’ mission is to announce the coming of the kingdom: and that this news is accompanied by actions (healings).

Jesus announces and makes present the kingdom of God among men. Jesus isn’t alone. He begins his journey through the villages of Palestine, and he is accompanied by the twelve and some women.

*In this evening’s prayer let us imagine ourselves part of the group with Jesus. Let us pray that we open the eyes of our hearts so that we learn to build the kingdom with Him and like Him.*

*Silent prayer*

 The Kingdom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

 Come, Lord and open in us the gates of your Kingdom.

**PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM**

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| “The kingdom of heaven is like **treasure hidden** in a field. When a man **found** it, he hid it again, and then in his **joy** went and **sold all he had and bought that field**.Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant **looking for fine pearls**. When he found one of great value, he went away and **sold everything he had and bought it**.***”*** Mt 13,44-46 |

Before this unexpected discovery, the farmer and the merchant realized they are in a unique position and they cannot escape. Because of this, they sell all to buy this treasure and that pearl.

The kingdom of God is present in the person of Jesus. He is the hidden treasure and the pearl of great price. He is the fundamental discovery who makes sense of our lives.

When we make Jesus’ experiences our one treasure, the rest is relative and joy of His presence and His nearness fill our life and are radiated to others.

This evening we are invited to identify our treasures, our pearls of great price which we chase so often. Jesus has given us a clue: “where your treasure is, there your heart will be”.

*Let us ask ourselves: what have I given most value to today? What have I chased most today?*

*Let us pray that Jesus will seduce our hearts so that He will be a unique treasure for each of us.*

*Silent prayer*

The Kingdom of God is justice and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

 Come, Lord and open in us the gates of your Kingdom.

**SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM**

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| “Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for **the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these**.” When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.” Mt 19, 13-15“Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and **he healed them**.The people were amazed when they saw the **mute speaking**, the **crippled made well**, **the lame walking** and **the blind seeing**. And they praised the God of Israel.” Mt 15, 29-31**“**At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the groupand said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.Jesus straightened up and asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”“No one, sir,” she said. “Then **neither do I condemn you**,” Jesus declared. “Go **now and leave your life of sin**.” Jn 8,1-11 |

The kingdom of God is lived in an attitude of welcoming sinners, healing the sick and freeing from evil.

The essence of the Kingdom of God is the expression of a God who draws near to those who want a more dignified life for all human beings, especially the smallest and vulnerable. Everyone who says they are a disciple of Jesus must enter this logic to give life to those around. As Pope Francis says, we must “look after the vulnerable”.

*I thank God for the signs of the Kingdom that I discover in the World and my surroundings. I pray for the light to see where and how he is calling me to build the Kingdom.*

*I pray for the grace and power to do this.*

*Silent prayer*

**Psalm of the disciple who wants to proclaim Christ**

Lord, here we are, like your disciples in Galilee.

Here we are, we want to respond to your call.

Here we are Lord, because you are our joy,

Here we are Lord, because we want to proclaim your Kingdom.

Here we are Lord, with our trust fully in You.

Here we are Lord, you can count on us.

Lord you are our joy,

Because you are the priceless pearl and the hidden treasure.

You are our joy,

Because our whole life has sense only in you.

We want to proclaim your Kingdom

Because we feel you near us

Because when this treasure which you are, is found

We cannot stay silent.

Here we are because we know you want to rely on us

And we offer you the best we have: our own life

So that it can be in the service of Your Kingdom.

We put our trust in You - not in our strength.

You say to us: “Courage, don’t be afraid, I am with you”.

We know that with You all is possible.

Lord increase our faith and trust.

*Let us continue the psalm and repeat words and phrases.*

*Let us share our prayer.*

Final prayer: Our Father.

 Father, we adore You, lay our lives before You, how we love You.

 Jesus, … Spirit, …