



CELEBRATING AT HOME

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A work in progress (Luke 20:27-38)



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Sign of the Cross

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

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,

you are the first-born from the dead.

Lord Jesus,

you call us to eternal life.

Lord Jesus,

you grant us your salvation.

Scripture Reading *(Luke 20:27-38)*

Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and put this question to him. ‘Master, we have it from Moses in writing, that if a man’s married brother dies childless, the man must marry the widow to raise up children for his brother. Well, then, there were seven brothers. The first, having married a wife, died childless. The second and then the third married the widow. And the same with all seven, they died leaving no children. Finally the woman herself died. Now, at the resurrection, to which of them will she be wife since she had been married to all seven?’

Jesus replied, ‘The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection of the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as the angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all men are in fact alive.’

Reflection - *A work in progress*

In this episode from Luke’s Gospel, it is the Sadducees, rather than the Pharisees, who confront Jesus. Like the Pharisees, the Sadducees were a Jewish sect. They rejected much of what the Pharisees believed in, including the possibility of life after death.

The rather ridiculous scenario they put to Jesus in today’s Gospel was meant to show how ridiculous belief in resurrection was.

Part of the flaw in their scenario was the assumption that life after death would be the same as life is now, with the same conditions applying. So, they based their scenario on marriage in this world in order to ask the question about whose wife the woman would be in the next.

Without ridiculing their beliefs, Jesus says that in the risen life we are dealing with a totally new situation, one not governed by the laws of this life.

Then Jesus also uses a quote from Moses to show that Moses himself implies that the dead rise again.

Jesus’ proclamation of the ‘God of the living’ gives us the right context for viewing eternal life. Not as separate to, but as a continuation of the relationship with God we already live here. This also helps make sense of the Kingdom or Reign of God as already being present among us – not just as something yet to come.

God’s life in us is a work in progress. The disciples of Jesus live the life of the Kingdom now to the extent that they share in the life of God and can enable that reign of God’s grace to be experienced by others through the good deeds they do.

Eternal life is not something yet to come, but something we have already begun to live here and now.

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Prayers of Intercession

For the whole Church:
may every word and action be a constant call to the new life of Easter.

With faith and prayer may we meet the “little deaths” of our lives,
and experience anew Christ’s Spirit rising within us.

Help us to have the courage and wisdom to die to our sinfulness,
and rise to new life.

Lord’s Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
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 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.**

Closing Prayer

Lord God,
fill us with the spirit of your Son
that we may witness his love in our families,
our parishes and our world.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God be among us,
and remain with us for ever. Amen.





Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites of Australia & Timor-Leste at a time when many cannot gather together as we usually do to celebrate the Eucharist. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.

As you use this prayer know that the Carmelites will be remembering in our prayer all the members of our family at this time.



The Carmelites
Australia & Timor-Leste

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