

## **Homily Summary – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Overview:** In today's Gospel (Luke 13:22–30), someone asks Jesus: *"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"* (Lk 13:23). Instead of numbers, Jesus gives us a challenge: *"Strive to enter through the narrow door"* (Lk 13:24). Salvation is God's free gift offered to all, but it requires our response of faith, humility, repentance, and daily discipleship. God desperately wants each of us in Heaven, yet He respects our freedom—He never forces His children.

### **Main Points:**

1. **God desires all to be saved**
  - *"I know their works and their thoughts, and I come to gather nations of every language"* (Is 66:18).
  - Jesus died for all, offering eternal life to everyone.
2. **The Narrow Door requires effort**
  - *"Strive to enter through the narrow door"* (Lk 13:24).
  - Faith is not passive; it is lived out through obedience, humility, and perseverance.
3. **Mere knowledge of Jesus is not enough**
  - *"You will say, 'We ate and drank with you...' But he will say, 'I do not know where you are from'"* (Lk 13:26–27).
  - Authentic discipleship requires daily conversion, not just familiarity.
4. **Discipline leads to true peace**
  - *"All discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness"* (Heb 12:11).
  - Following Jesus can be demanding, but it brings deeper joy and lasting peace.
5. **Our freedom matters**
  - God will not force us into Heaven; love requires free choice.
  - As St. John Paul II said: *"The future starts today, not tomorrow."*
6. **Mary as our model**
  - Mary walked the narrow way through her humility and faithfulness, showing us how to say "yes" to God daily.
7. **The Sacrament of Reconciliation**
  - The confessional is the "open door of mercy" where Jesus strengthens us to walk the narrow way.

### **Scripture References:**

- **Luke 13:24** – *"Strive to enter through the narrow door."*
- **Isaiah 66:18** – God gathers all nations.
- **Hebrews 12:11** – Discipline yields righteousness.
- **Matthew 25:31–46** – Sheep and goats at the final judgment.
- **Romans 3:23** – *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*

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### **Catechism References:**

- **CCC 847–848** – God desires all to be saved, even those who do not know Christ explicitly.
- **CCC 1696** – The way of Christ leads to life; it is narrow and demanding.
- **CCC 1730** – Human freedom is the basis of our dignity and responsibility.

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### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What does "striving for the narrow door" look like in my daily life?
2. Am I content with just "knowing about Jesus," or do I truly live as His disciple?
3. Where do I need God's mercy most today?
4. How do I want to live? How do I want to die? Am I preparing for eternal life now?

### **Rhyme summary:**

The gate is narrow, but the path is true,  
Christ waits in Heaven to welcome you.  
So we can't drift or simply coast,  
At times the race may feel hard, but it's in Christ's grace that we boast.  
Though burdens may come each day,  
God strengthens us along the way.  
So walk with Christ, on His path stay,  
then heaven's joy will be yours one day.

### **Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, '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. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

### **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>