

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025
The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer for the Morning

The Lord our God is a faithful God. Let us pray to him. **Glory to the Father...Amen. Alleluia!**

Hymn Meter: 10 4 10 4 10 10

Lead kindly light, amidst the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on.

Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.
So long thy power hast blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on;

O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone;
And with the morn those angel faces smile
Which I have loved long since and lost awhile.

Psalm 116:10-19

Abram put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness. (Gn 15:6)

Faith and trust in God is such a difficult thing. We yearn for the stability that God brings, but at the same time are so afraid to let go of our own will. This dichotomy of fear and desire is a constant theme in our lives. Because of this, faith is not the refuge of the weak-minded but the domain of the brave. The Israelites trusted in God when they heard the proclamation of Ezra the prophet and had faith that God would fulfill his promises. We have an even greater prophet in Jesus Christ. Let us rest our faith on him and let him fulfill the deepest desires of our hearts.

I trusted, even when I said:
"I am sorely afflicted,"
and when I said in my alarm:
"No man can be trusted."
How can I repay the Lord
for his goodness to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfill
before all his people.
O precious in the eyes of the Lord
is the death of his faithful.
Your servant, Lord, your servant am I;
you have loosened my bonds.
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make:

I will call on the Lord's name.
My vows to the Lord I will fulfill
before all his people,
in the courts of the house of the Lord,
in your midst, O Jerusalem. **Glory to the Father...**

Word of God Matthew 6:30, 34

If God so clothes the grass of the field, which grows today and is thrown into the oven tomorrow, will he not much more provide for you, O you of little faith? Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself. Sufficient for a day is its own evil.

Trust in the Lord, your God, and you will be found firm. Trust in his prophets and you will succeed.
(2 Chr 20:20)

Canticle of Zechariah

The Lord has blessed us in his mercy. (cf. Jos 17:14)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

To the Lord of mercy, we pray:

R/ Jesus, we trust in you.

Because of the goodness of your Father: **R/**

Because you came among us and experienced the trials of the world: **R/**

Because of the saving power of your Gospel: **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

God our Father, you led the Israelites across the desert to a land of milk and honey. Lead us also, your people, to the land of everlasting joy, where we may behold your face for ever. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Reading 1 **Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. He opened the scroll so that all the people might see it—for he was standing higher up than any of the people—; and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, “Amen, amen!” Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground. Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: “Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep”—for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further: “Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!”

Reading 2 **1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Brothers and sisters: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons,

and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. Now the body is not a single part, but many.

Gospel **1:1-4; 4:14-21.**

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,/ because he has anointed me/ to bring glad tidings to the poor./ He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives/ and recovery of sight to the blind,/ to let the oppressed go free,/ and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God’s commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God’s will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family’s salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

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