

focus on sunday

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 16th October 2022

There is no point in pretending before God: he sees us exactly as we are. If we place ourselves honestly and humbly in his presence then our prayer will be heard.

Always pray and do not give up



We recognize the widow in this story. We see her in movies and books and in real life – the lone crusader taking on the establishment, fighting for her rights and eventually, through grit and persistence, winning her case. It is a parable about persistence in prayer but also persistence in action.

When we work for the homeless, we are working for people's rights, as in education, health care, employment and freedom of movement and freedom of religion, freedom from slavery and torture, the right to life at all ages of life, among others. The church promotes these rights and links with movements for such rights. Feeding the hungry is not an act of charity, it is an act of justice.

The judge was meant to be the defender of the widow in his culture. Somehow, he had become more concerned with saving his own skin and reputation than with his integrity. Over time the widow wears him down. She does not lose heart – she keeps the faith, and, in this, we must follow her example. Both in our thoughts and in our actions.

The delay in helping touched God also, and his wish for justice, then as now, is compromised by human injustice. Maybe this is more a parable about injustice than of prayer. But it is also an encouragement to pray: 'our power is prayer and the prayer of the humble is God's weakness. The Lord is weak only in this: he is weak in the face of the prayer of his people' (Pope Francis, November 2013). In our work for justice, integrity and fairness, let's also pray for it.

Maybe this week read the thirty articles of UN Human rights! See <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/> Lord may your kingdom come, near and far away.

Donal Neary SJ, Editor Sacred Heart Messenger.



I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines: who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

The mystery of faith. We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal. Through Christ our Lord.



who made heaven and earth.

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains: from where shall come my help? My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth. [R]
2. May he never allow you to stumble!, Let him sleep not, your guard. No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Israel's guard. [R]
3. The Lord is your guard and your shade; at your right side he stands. By day the sun shall not smite you nor the moon in the night. [R]
4. The Lord will guard you from evil, he will guard your soul. The Lord will guard your going and coming both now and for ever. [R]

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

You must keep to what you have been taught and know to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how, ever since you were a child, you have known the holy scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy. This is how the person who is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready for any good work.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death.'" And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them?'

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you give yourself to heal us and bring us strength:

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God,

grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Exodus 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses' arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 120

R. Our help is in the name of the Lord