



Give Us

JUNE 2020

This Day[®]

Canticle of Zechariah (Benedictus)

Luke 1:68-79

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, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.

Give Us This Day.®



Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>3 R</p> <p><i>St. Charles Lwanga and Companions</i></p> <p>✦ St. John the Sinner ✦ St. Catherine of Siena</p>	<p>4 G</p> <p>✦ St. Mary Elizabeth Hesselblad ✦ Sr. Karen Joseph</p>	<p>5 R</p> <p><i>St. Boniface</i></p> <p>✦ Bd. Malgorzata Szewczyk ✦ Fr. Kevin O'Brien</p>	<p>6 G</p> <p><i>[St. Norbert]</i></p> <p>✦ St. Norbert ✦ Lewis Smedes</p>
<p>10 G</p> <p>✦ Servant of God Antoni Gaudí ✦ St. Birgitta of Sweden</p>	<p>11 R</p> <p><i>St. Barnabas</i></p> <p>✦ Gabrielle Bossis ✦ Fr. Richard Fragomeni</p>	<p>12 G</p> <p>✦ Medgar Evers ✦ Judith Valente</p>	<p>13 W</p> <p><i>St. Anthony of Padua</i></p> <p>✦ St. Anthony of Padua ✦ Fr. Don Talafous</p>
<p>17 G</p> <p>✦ St. Albert Chmielowski ✦ E. Jane Rutter</p>	<p>18 G</p> <p>✦ St. Germaine Cousin ✦ Fr. Ronald Raab</p>	<p>19 W</p> <p><i>The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus</i></p> <p>✦ St. Lutgardis ✦ Rachel Srubas</p>	<p>20 W</p> <p><i>The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i></p> <p>✦ Bd. Michelina of Pesaro ✦ C. Vanessa White</p>
<p>24 W</p> <p><i>The Nativity of St. John the Baptist</i></p> <p>✦ St. María Guadalupe García Zavala ✦ Bd. Gueric of Igny</p>	<p>25 G</p> <p>✦ St. Febronia ✦ Deacon Jay Cormier</p>	<p>26 G</p> <p>✦ Hans Urs von Balthasar ✦ Madeleine Delbrèl</p>	<p>27 G</p> <p><i>[St. Cyril of Alexandria]</i></p> <p>✦ Bd. Madeleine Fontaine and Companions ✦ Fr. Richard Gula</p>



June 2020

Give Us **This Day**[®]

DAILY PRAYER FOR TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Mothing the Church

Mary Stommes

When I was a child, I thought that *Hail Mary* and *Holy Mary* were two different women. *Hail Mary* was the mother of Baby Jesus, the fruit of her womb. *Holy Mary* was the mother of God, you know, the mother of *Our Father*. Even dads have moms. Right?

I liked *Hail Mary* the most. What's not to love about holding a baby? And moms get to be in charge of the house. I knew this because when I was a child, we "played house." We weren't allowed to play with the real babies (my mom was wise). Dolls were easier to manage anyway. You could pretty much ignore them while you got all your work done.

Except when you play house, it's more fun than work. You round up a couple siblings, drag the well-worn dolls out of the toy box, sneak some real dishes from the kitchen, real baby bottles and bibs if you dare. You set up imaginary walls and doors (without fail, some offending kid comes or goes by way of the closed door, or worse, the wall!). When you play house, nobody has to do the dishes or laundry, and the babies are easy to comfort when they fuss. Best of all, when you play house and become bored with it, when something more exciting comes along, you bolt. Until your real mom—who is wise and does not pick up after you—calls you back to clean up your big mess. Back to the toy box with all the contents of your household, babies and all. If those dolls could talk! "Well-worn and much-loved," I think they'd say.

Back to the *Hail Mary* of my childhood. When I was in fourth grade, by a literal luck of the draw, I was chosen to

play the role of my namesake in the Midnight Mass Christmas procession. I was over the moon, could not believe my good fortune! To be honest, I was more interested in Mary's "baby" than anything else. I knew that whoever played Mary got to keep the brand-new doll that had been purchased just for that Holy Night. (Thank goodness it was not a bring-your-own-doll event—wise women those pageant organizers!) I vaguely remember the procession, holding "Jesus" ever-so-carefully, gently placing him in the bed of straw. I probably napped for most of Mass. And then sleepily left church—by way of the open door—well-equipped to play house later that day.

Some years later, lest you worry, I learned the inaccuracy of my "two-Mary hypothesis." I learned about Incarnation, about the Word becoming flesh, being born of Mary. I believe Mary holds us as she held Christ. I believe we hold Christ as Mary held him. We, the people of God. We, the Church—the well-worn and much-loved household of God. When we—whether as individuals or an institution—make a mess of things, we would do well to turn to our Blessed Mother. This wisest among all women turns our attention to Christ and tells us simply, "Do whatever he tells you" (John 2:5). Christ is the one in charge of this household of God. Listen to him.

Listen also to the Spirit, the Breath of God who loves to enter—sometimes quietly and sometimes with great force—through locked doors and even through walls. Through the barriers of all our doubts and fears. Mary, we know, learned this as a young virgin in Nazareth.

Hail Mary, full of grace, hold us and pray for us. God knows, the Church needs a Mother too.

Mary Stommes is an oblate of St. Benedict and editor of Give Us This Day.

Teach Us to Pray

Finding God at the Center

Fr. James Martin

The older I get, the simpler my prayer gets. That's one reason I enjoy "Centering Prayer" more and more. It's a popular form of prayer that does not require you to do much by way of "content." That is, there is no need to imagine oneself in a particular Bible scene, as one may do in Ignatian contemplation, or to ponder a phrase or line of Scripture as one may do in *lectio divina*.

Instead, centering prayer uses simple techniques to calm you down and help you experience God, who dwells within you. Remember, as St. Paul said, you are a "temple of the Holy Spirit" (1 Cor 6:19). Meeting God within is as important as meeting God without, for example, in a church or in a relationship.

The superb book *Finding Grace at the Center* offers some steps for this prayer practice: First, quiet down and rest in God's presence. Then choose a prayer word that will help anchor you, like "God" or "Jesus" or "love." If you become aware of anything else or feel distracted, simply and gently return to the prayer word.

Centering prayer is easy and effective, and is especially useful in times of stress and turmoil. There are few things as calming and comforting as relaxing in God's presence. And for those who somehow feel guilty about not doing more "content-heavy" prayer, you might ask yourself: Do you think God loves you less when you are simply resting in God's presence?

Find God at the center.

James Martin is a Jesuit priest, editor at large of America magazine, and author of many books, including Jesus: A Pilgrimage, The Jesuit Guide, and In All Seasons, For All Reasons, a collection drawn from this column in Give Us This Day.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
O good Jesus, hear me.
Within your wounds hide me.
Do not let me to be separated from you.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death call me
and bid me come to you,
that with your saints I may praise you
for ever and ever. Amen.



Though the *Anima Christi* is commonly attributed to St. Ignatius of Loyola (1491–1556), the beautiful prayer may be as much as two hundred years older. Sources also tell us that it appears in over forty hymnals with variations going back to the medieval period. The prayer is often found in manuals of devotion in our own time with the recommendation that it is profitable to recite it after going to Holy Communion.

One thing that stands out in this prayer is that it links an intimate understanding of the Eucharist with an equally “earthy” conception of the Passion of Christ. It is also of note that the prayer intertwines the titles “Christ” and “Jesus” in a familiar fashion. One cannot help but think that this prayer belongs to an era when the reality of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist was understood in tandem with a

keen sense of the Passion of the Lord in all of its particularity. The very vocabulary of “body” and “blood” and “water from the side” and “wounds” makes it inescapable to ignore resonances with the feast of Corpus Christi, now the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ. It resonates as well with the devotion to the wounded humanity of Christ that at one time was preached so passionately by the Franciscans, who insisted heartily on the stigmata suffered by their founder, St. Francis of Assisi.

“Earthy” as the *Anima Christi* is, there is a further point: the prayer ends with an invocation begging Jesus to defend us from the malicious enemy and beckon us at the hour of death, that we can live for eternity with all the saints. This strong eschatological sense links the Eucharist with the coming particular judgment, echoing St. Paul’s insistence that in the reception of the Eucharist we “proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again” (1 Cor 11:26).

Modern sensibilities may dampen our desire to be washed from the side of Christ or to be hidden within his wounds. But behind these images of the passion accounts, patristic and medieval writers saw a whole theology of baptism, Eucharist, and as the Church Fathers frequently insisted, the birth of the Church. In short, behind the thirteen lines of this prayer there is over a millennium of meditation on the saving mysteries revealed at Calvary.

Lawrence S. Cunningham

Lawrence S. Cunningham writes from the University of Notre Dame.

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lord, have mercy **R.** *Lord, have mercy*
Christ, have mercy **R.** *Christ, have mercy*
Lord, have mercy **R.** *Lord, have mercy*

God our Father in heaven **R.** *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world **R.**

God the Holy Spirit **R.**

Holy Trinity, one God **R.**

Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father **R.**

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of
the Virgin Mother **R.**

Heart of Jesus, one with the eternal Word **R.** . . .

Heart of Jesus, patient and full of mercy **R.**

Heart of Jesus, generous to all who turn to you **R.**

Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness **R.**

Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins **R.** . . .

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart. **R.** *Touch our hearts and
make them like your own.*



God of heaven and earth,
through Jesus you have made known to us
your name of Father,
the Word who was made flesh,
and the person of the Holy Spirit.
May you be blessed for opening to us
the secrets of your inmost life,
and for inviting us to enter it
in the glory where you reign
for ever and ever.

—*Proclaiming All Your Wonders*

Prayer for Fathers

Almighty God,
through the gift of our fathers
you reveal your actions and wisdom
showing us the glory of your love and care.

Continue to bless and guide
these holy men you have given to us in our lives.

Support them in their Christian vocation
to lead holy lives of respect and dignity
bearing witness to your Son, Jesus Christ.

May their witness of faith and love
shine on them and their children
giving hope and encouragement.

For those fathers who have lost a child,
give them your loving touch of healing,
consoling them with your gentle care.

For those fathers who have gone before us,
bring them to the joy of your eternal banquet
where with your Son and Spirit
you bring the fullness of communion.

Help us always honor our fathers with profound
respect and care, and so honor you,
who are one God, forever and ever.

—Fr. John Thomas Lane, SSS

Meal Prayers

Before the meal

Nourishing God,
bless the food and drink at this table.
May your generosity to us here
make us generous servants of each other
in the Body of your Son,
Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

After the meal

Lord Jesus,
we taste your goodness
in the gift of your Body and Blood,
and in the food we have shared at this table.
Bring us one day to your banquet in heaven,
there to savor your merciful love,
for ever and ever. Amen.

—Fr. Michael Kwatera, OSB, and Br. Dietrich Reinhart, OSB



Lord Jesus, you perplex even your friends
by the ways your Kingdom comes.
Keep us alert and waiting for you,
ready to recognize you wherever you come:
in mercy and forgiveness,
in the nearness of the poor,
in the darkness of prison,
and the unsung witness of the martyr.
Hear us, you who are the faithful witness,
blessed for ever and ever.

—*Proclaiming All Your Wonders*

Muslim, Jewish, and Christian Prayer for Peace

O God, you are the source of life and peace.

Praised be your name forever.

We know it is you who turn our minds to thoughts of peace.

Hear our prayer in this time of war.

Your power changes hearts.

Muslims, Christians, and Jews remember, and profoundly
affirm,

that they are followers of the one God,

children of Abraham, brothers and sisters;

enemies begin to speak to one another;

those who were estranged join hands in friendship;

nations seek the way of peace together.

Strengthen our resolve to give witness to these truths by
the way we live.

Give to us:

Understanding that puts an end to strife;

Mercy that quenches hatred, and

Forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live in your law of love.

Amen.

—*Pax Christi USA/Fellowship of Reconciliation*



No one is to pursue what he judges better for himself, but instead, what he judges better for someone else. . . . Let them prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he bring us all together to everlasting life.

—Rule of St. Benedict, Chapter 72

Prayer at Night

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

EXAMINATION OF CONSCIENCE

Briefly consider your day: What did I do well? What could I have done better? Whom did I offend? Whom did I help or encourage?

Pray the Act of Contrition or another prayer of sorrow and promise of amendment.

PSALM 91:1-2, 5-6, 10-11

You who dwell in the Most High's hidden place,
and abide in the shade of the Almighty,
say to the LORD, "My refuge,
my stronghold, my God in whom I trust!"

You will not fear the terror of the night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the plague that prowls in the darkness,
nor the scourge that lays waste at noon.

Upon you no evil shall fall,
no plague approach your tent.
For you has God commanded the angels
to keep you in all your ways.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, 23-24

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit.

May the God of peace himself make you perfectly holy and may you entirely, spirit, soul, and body, be preserved

blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will also accomplish it.

ANTIPHON

Protect us, Lord, while we are awake and safeguard us while we sleep, that we may keep watch with Christ and rest in peace.

CANTICLE OF SIMEON

Lord, now let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled:

my own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:

a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father . . .

MARIAN ANTIPHON (or another Marian hymn, pp. 364–65)

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve;
To thee we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

BLESSING

May God grant us a peaceful night and a perfect end.
May the divine assistance be always with us and with all
our loved ones. Amen.

June 1–6

Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

Within the Word

The Word of God Is Not Chained

Beginning on Wednesday, this week's Lectionary gives us several passages from the Second Letter to Timothy. Although Paul is presented within the letter as its author, there is considerable evidence to indicate it was written in Paul's name by one of his followers. Most scholars set the date for the letter after Paul's death, towards the end of the first century. From that vantage point, the letter discusses a variety of topics relevant to a growing faith tradition, some seventy years after Jesus' death and resurrection.

Second Timothy makes two important assertions about the word of God. On Friday we hear that, "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness." This is an important reminder of the value of God's written word. For the first Christians, the worth of the Scriptures was an inheritance from Judaism. Indeed, for the author of 2 Timothy, the inspired Scriptures *were* the Jewish Scriptures. The books we now see as the New Testament were only beginning to hold inspired status. The Jewish writings of the Torah and the Prophets were recognized as useful means to render the one who belongs to God, "competent, equipped for every good work." To this day we believe that the Scriptures—both Old and New Testaments—can guide and form us to be effective disciples of Jesus.

But the word of God is more than a useful means of Christian formation. As God's word, the Scriptures share in God's own freedom and power. Another passage from 2 Timothy

confirms that sovereignty. On Thursday, Paul states that his proclamation of the Gospel has led to his imprisonment. As an apostle he now suffers in chains, like a criminal. Then Paul pivots and asserts, “But the word of God is not chained.” Those who oppose God’s will can frustrate the spread of the Gospel and imprison its ministers, but God’s word cannot be controlled or confined. Whether proclaimed in Paul’s spoken words or committed to a written text, God’s word remains free.

When plantation owners in the American South began to import slaves from Africa to work in their fields, they were eager to convert them to Christianity. They assigned preachers to expose their slaves to the Bible in order to render the slaves docile and obedient. The plantation owners were convinced that this would happen because of biblical admonitions such as those in the First Letter to Timothy: “Those who are under the yoke of slavery must regard their masters as worthy of full respect, so that the name of God and our teaching may not suffer abuse” (6:1). The majority of slaves did become Christian. They embraced the Bible as God’s word. They heard that slaves should obey their masters. But they also heard the great biblical narratives of freedom. They identified with the Jews enslaved in Egypt. The cry, “Let my people go!” became a beacon and moral force that led to the end of slavery and progress towards equality.

Whenever we take up a biblical text, we must respect its power. We may think we know what it will say to us. But God’s word remains free. It will not be bent to human purposes. The word of God will not be chained!

—Fr. George Smiga

George M. Smiga, STD, teaches at St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology and speaks frequently on the topics of Scripture and homiletics. His website is Building on the Word: A Resource for Scripture, Culture, and Faith, at buildingontheword.org.

Monday, June 1

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 111:1-6, 9-10

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Alleluia!

I will thank the LORD with all my heart,
in the meeting of the just and the assembly.
Great are the works of the LORD,
to be pondered by all who delight in them.

Majestic and glorious your work;
your righteousness stands firm forever.
You have made a memorial of your wonders.
You, O LORD, are gracious and merciful.

You give food to those who revere you;
you are mindful of your covenant forever.
You have shown mighty works to your people
by giving them the heritage of nations.

You have sent redemption to your people,
and established your covenant forever.
Holy your name, to be feared.

Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
understanding marks all who live by it.
Your praise endures forever!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Wisdom 7:7-12

prayed, and prudence was given me; / I pleaded and the
spirit of Wisdom came to me. / I preferred her to scepter

and throne, / And deemed riches nothing in comparison with her, / nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; / Because all gold, in view of her, is a bit of sand, / and before her, silver is to be accounted mire. / Beyond health and beauty I loved her, / And I chose to have her rather than the light, / because her radiance never ceases. / Yet all good things together came to me with her, / and countless riches at her hands; / I rejoiced in them all, because Wisdom is their leader, / though I had not known that she is their mother.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Mary, mother of the Church, teach us wisdom.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, you chose Mary to be the Mother of our Lord. Gather your Church together under her protective care as we pray: **R7.** God of all grace, hear our prayer.

Mary pondered your word: shape our hearts by your life-giving Spirit. **R7.**

Mary believed your promise would be fulfilled in her: deepen our trust and faith in you. **R7.**

Mary rejoiced in your saving help: unite your Church in love and praise of your holy name. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God heal the Church of division, guard her in love, and bring us together to everlasting life in Jesus. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Marguerite Porete

Beguine Martyr (d. 1310)

Of Marguerite Porete, little is known apart from the records of the Inquisitorial court of Paris that condemned her. She identified herself as a Beguine, part of a loosely organized network of small communities of Christian laywomen that flourished in the fourteenth century. These women sought to live quiet lives of devotion without taking religious vows, thus basically opting out of the economic and ecclesiastical structures of their time. She wrote a book, *The Mirror of Simple Souls*, which offers a mystical discourse on divine charity. Written as a dialogue between the Soul and Reason, it encourages the pursuit of spiritual perfection through the path of loving communion with God and one's neighbors.

The Inquisitors, who converted her poetic language into a series of propositions, condemned her work, accusing her of propagating a spirituality that dispensed with the Church in favor of direct communion with God. Judged a heretic, in 1310 she was turned over to the “secular arm” to be burned. Whatever her errors, her writings suggest that she was a holy woman who burned with the love of God. Of those who condemned her, it is hard to conclude otherwise than that they loved orthodoxy more than they loved Christ.

“I beg you, those who read these words, try to understand them inwardly, in the innermost depths of your understanding, with all the subtle powers at your command, or else you run the risk of failing to understand them at all.” —Marguerite Porete

The “Blessed Among Us” features are written by Robert Ellsberg, author of numerous books, including the best-selling *Blessed Among Us* (Liturgical Press).

Mass

*The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, Memorial**

*other options for readings are possible.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Acts 1:14

The disciples devoted themselves with one accord to prayer / with Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

COLLECT

O God, Father of mercies,
whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,
to be our Mother also,
grant, we pray, that with her loving help
your Church may be more fruitful day by day
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,
may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.
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.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

3:9-15, 20 (alt. Acts 1:12-14)

The mother of all the living.

After Adam had eaten of the tree, the LORD God called to the man and asked him, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself.” Then he asked, “Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!” The man replied, “The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it.” The LORD God then asked the

woman, “Why did you do such a thing?” The woman answered, “The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it.”

Then the LORD God said to the serpent: / “Because you have done this, you shall be banned / from all the animals / and from all the wild creatures; / On your belly shall you crawl, / and dirt shall you eat / all the days of your life. / I will put enmity between you and the woman, / and between your offspring and hers; / He will strike at your head, / while you strike at his heel.” / The man called his wife Eve, because she became the mother of all the living.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7

R7. (3) Glorious things are told of you, O city of God.

His foundation upon the holy mountains

the LORD loves:

The gates of Zion,

More than any dwelling of Jacob. **R7.**

Glorious things are told of you,

O city of God!

And of Zion they shall say:

“One and all were born in her;

And he who has established her

is the Most High LORD.” **R7.**

They shall note, when the peoples are enrolled:

“This man was born there.”

And all shall sing, in their festive dance:

“My home is within you.” **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

O happy Virgin, you gave birth to the Lord;
 O blessed mother of the Church,
 you warm our hearts with the Spirit of your Son Jesus
 Christ.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 19:25-34

Woman, behold your son. Behold your mother.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home. After this, aware that everything was now finished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I thirst." There was a vessel filled with common wine. So they put a sponge soaked in wine on a sprig of hyssop and put it up to his mouth. When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, "It is finished." And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.

Now since it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately Blood and water flowed out.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive our offerings, O Lord,
and transform them into the mystery of salvation,
so that by its power we may be set aflame
with the charity of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
and with her may be united more closely
to the work of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. John 2:1, 11

A wedding was held in Cana of Galilee, / and the mother
of Jesus was there; / then Jesus performed the first of his
signs / and manifested his glory, / and his disciples
believed in him.

Or:

Cf. John 19:26-27

As he hung upon the cross, / Jesus said to the disciple
whom he loved: / Behold your mother.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having received the pledge of redemption and of life,
we humbly pray, O Lord,
that, with the Blessed Virgin's motherly help,
your Church may teach all nations
by proclaiming the Gospel
and, through the grace of the outpouring of the Spirit,
fill the whole earth.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Her Tender Gaze

[In] times of need, when we are entangled in life's knots, we rightly lift our eyes *to* Our Lady, to Our Mother. Yet first, we should let ourselves be gazed upon *by* Our Lady. When she gazes upon us, she does not see sinners but children. It is said that the eyes are the mirror of the soul; the eyes of Mary, *full of grace*, reflect the beauty of God, they show us a reflection of heaven. Jesus himself said that the eye is "the lamp of the body" (Mt 6:22): the eyes of Our Lady are able to bring light to every dark corner; everywhere they rekindle hope. As she gazes upon us, she says: "Take heart, dear children; here I am, your Mother!"

This maternal gaze, which instills confidence and trust, helps us to grow in faith. Faith is a bond with God that engages the whole person; to be preserved, it needs the Mother of God. Her maternal gaze helps us see ourselves as beloved children in God's faithful people, and to love one another regardless of our individual limitations and approaches. Our Lady keeps us rooted in the Church, where unity counts more than diversity; she encourages us to care for one another. Mary's gaze reminds us that faith demands a tenderness that can save us from becoming lukewarm. Tenderness: the Church of tenderness. Tenderness is a word that today many want to remove from the dictionary. When faith makes a place for the Mother of God, we never lose sight of the center: the Lord, for Mary never points to herself but to Jesus; and our brothers and sisters, for Mary is mother.

----- Pope Francis, *Homily, January 1, 2019*

Prior to being elected pope on March 13, 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 87

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Founded by God on the holy mountain,
the LORD loves the gates of Zion,
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.
Of you are told glorious things,
you, O city of God!

“Rahab and Babylon I will count
among those who know me;
Of Tyre, Philistia, Ethiopia, it is told,
‘There was this one born.’
But of Zion it shall be said,
‘Each one was born in her.’”

God, the Most High, will establish her.
In the register of peoples the LORD writes,
“Here was this one born.”
The singers cry out in chorus,
“All my wellsprings are in you.”

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 1:18-23

May the eyes of [your] hearts be enlightened, that you may know what is the hope that belongs to his call, what are the riches of glory in his inheritance among the holy ones, and what is the surpassing greatness of his power for us who believe, in accord with the exercise of his great

might, which he worked in Christ, raising him from the dead and seating him at his right hand in the heavens, far above every principality, authority, power, and dominion, and every name that is named not only in this age but also in the one to come. And he put all things beneath his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of the one who fills all things in every way.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Mary, mother of the Church, lead us to your Son.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Beneficent God, you deliver us from evil and show us your salvation. In trust we pray: **R₇**. Draw us in your Spirit's tether, O God.

Strengthen feeble knees, encourage faint hearts, and calm those who are troubled. **R₇**.

Deepen the courage and conviction of all the baptized, and make us one body in Christ. **R₇**.

Welcome the faithful departed into the light of your presence. **R₇**.

Our Father . . .

May God increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love, through Jesus, the power and wisdom of God. Amen.

Tuesday, June 2

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 84:2-8

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

How lovely is your dwelling place,

O LORD of hosts.

My soul is longing and yearning
for the courts of the LORD.

My heart and my flesh cry out
to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself
in which she sets her young, at your altars,
O LORD of hosts, my king and my God.

Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
forever singing your praise.

Blessed the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrimage.

As they go through the Baca Valley,
they make it a place of springs;
the autumn rain covers it with pools.
They walk with ever-growing strength;
the God of gods will appear in Zion.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Leviticus 26:12-13

Ever present in your midst, I will be your God, and you will be my people; I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt to be their slaves no more, breaking the bars of your yoke and making you walk erect.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Give to God what belongs to God.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

In every age, O God, you have been our refuge. In faith we pray to you: **R**7. God, in your kindness, hear our prayer.

Sharpen our ethical senses, and fortify your Church's preferential option for the poor. **R**7.

Give wisdom to leaders of nations, and help us to settle conflicts peacefully and justly. **R**7.

Shower your compassion upon caregivers for those with mental or emotional illness. **R**7.

Our Father . . .

May the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit dwell in us richly, through faith. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Kevin

Irish Abbot (ca. 498–618)

As is the case with many early Irish saints, St. Kevin's life is steeped in legend. Born of a royal family, he was educated in a monastery near Dublin. One famous story from this period relates how, as he knelt praying with arms outstretched, a blackbird landed in his hand and proceeded to build a nest. Kevin remained thus, throughout Lent, as the bird laid its eggs, only relaxing when the young hatchlings flew away.

After his ordination, Kevin departed for a remote cave in the valley of Glendalough, where he dressed in animal skins and survived on nettles and sorrel. To alleviate his solitude, "the branches and leaves of the trees sometimes sang sweet songs to him." Eventually he was discovered by a farmer, who persuaded him to leave this austere life. The trees of the forest lay down to make a pathway as he passed.

St. Kevin established a monastery in Glendalough, which served for many centuries as a popular pilgrimage site. In the early years, the monks survived on salmon provided by a kindly otter—an arrangement that ended when one of the monks tried to make a glove from its skin. To secure blessings for his monastery, Kevin undertook a journey to Rome, returning with "holy relics and mould."

St. Kevin is said to have lived to the age of 120.

"A soldier of Christ into the land of Ireland, a high name over the sea's wave: [Kevin] the pure, bright warrior, in the glen of the two broad lakes."

—From an early Life of St. Kevin

Mass

Tuesday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

[*Saints Marcellinus and Peter, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 25 (24):16, 18

Turn to me and have mercy on me, O Lord, / for I am alone and poor. / See my lowliness and suffering / and take away all my sins, my God.

COLLECT

O God, whose providence never fails in its design, keep from us, we humbly beseech you, all that might harm us and grant all that works for our good. 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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Peter

3:12-15a, 17-18

We await new heavens and a new earth.

Beloved: Wait for and hasten the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames and the elements melted by fire. But according to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you await these things, be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace. And consider the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Therefore, beloved, since you are forewarned, be on your guard not to be led into the error of the unprincipled and to fall from your own stability. But grow in grace and in the

knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16

R. (1) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.

Before the mountains were begotten
and the earth and the world were brought forth,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **R.**

You turn man back to dust,
saying, "Return, O children of men."

For a thousand years in your sight
are as yesterday, now that it is past,
or as a watch of the night. **R.**

Seventy is the sum of our years,
or eighty, if we are strong,
And most of them are fruitless toil,
for they pass quickly and we drift away. **R.**

Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.

Let your work be seen by your servants
and your glory by their children. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Ephesians 1:17-18

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our hearts,
that we may know what is the hope
that belongs to his call.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

12:13-17

*Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar
and to God what belongs to God.*

Some Pharisees and Herodians were sent to Jesus to ensnare him in his speech. They came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are a truthful man and that you are not concerned with anyone’s opinion. You do not regard a person’s status but teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay or should we not pay?” Knowing their hypocrisy he said to them, “Why are you testing me? Bring me a denarius to look at.” They brought one to him and he said to them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” They replied to him, “Caesar’s.” So Jesus said to them, “Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” They were utterly amazed at him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Trusting in your compassion, O Lord,
we come eagerly with our offerings to your sacred altar,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 17 (16):6

To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God; / turn
your ear to me; hear my words.

Or:

Mark 11:23, 24

Amen, I say to you: Whatever you ask for in prayer, /
believe you will receive it, / and it will be yours, says
the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Govern by your Spirit, we pray, O Lord,
those you feed with the Body and Blood of your Son,
that, professing you not just in word or in speech,
but also in works and in truth,
we may merit to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

We Hypocrites

Much is made about the relationship between Church and State in today's Gospel. But that is a modern concern projected into the past. Jesus shocked and amazed those who sought to entrap him and the others who stood nearby, but it wasn't because he was preaching a message about being a good taxpayer.

This Gospel is instead about hypocrisy, which Jesus is a master at uncovering. He reserves his most stringent critiques for leaders, especially religious ones, who say one thing and make the lives of others difficult while disregarding the same teaching themselves.

Among the details of this story that gets overlooked is that some who are trying to ensnare Jesus are hardliners about observing the Jewish Law against idolatry. The Roman coins depicting the emperor as divine would have been deeply offensive, and yet the Pharisees and Herodians had one within easy reach—perhaps in their own pocket. They are regularly seeing and handling the very problematic coin at the center of their trick question.

The Letter of Peter encourages us to avoid the hypocrisy or moral compromise witnessed in the Gospel, exhorting us to “be eager to be found without spot or blemish” when we stand before Christ. Living according to God’s law begins with our examination of our own lives, not with seeking out the faults and failings of others. Clearly Jesus’ inquisitors missed this point. Hopefully, we won’t.

Fr. Daniel P. Horan

Daniel P. Horan, OFM, is a Franciscan friar, a faculty member at the Catholic Theological Union (Chicago), and the author of several books, including Reading, Praying, Living Pope Francis’s Rejoice and Be Glad and Catholicity and Emerging Personhood.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 119:89-96

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Forever is your word, O LORD,
standing firm in the heavens.
From age to age is your truth;
like the earth, it stands firm.

Your judgments endure to this day,
for all things are your servants.
Had your law not been my delight,
I would have died in my affliction.

I will never forget your precepts,
for with them you give me life.
Save me, I am yours,
for I seek your precepts.

Though the wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
yet I ponder your decrees.
I have seen that all perfection has an end,
but your command is boundless.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 6:16–7:1

What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said: / “I will live with them and move among them, / and I will be their God / and they shall be my people. / Therefore, come

forth from them / and be separate,” says the Lord, / “and touch nothing unclean; / then I will receive you / and I will be a father to you, / and you shall be sons and daughters to me, / says the Lord Almighty.”

Since we have these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of flesh and spirit, making holiness perfect in the fear of God.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Creating God, you fashion us in your image and likeness. In hope we pray: **R7**. Teach us your ways, O God.

Shatter our idols, and uncover all deceit. **R7**.

Watch over the elderly who live alone, and help us to reach out to those who are limited in their abilities. **R7**.

Inspire religious tolerance, and foster understanding among Christians, Muslims, and Jews. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts, by the power of the Holy Spirit, now and always. Amen.

Wednesday, June 3

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 59:2-6a, 17-18

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Rescue me, God, from my foes;
protect me from those who attack me.
O rescue me from those who do evil,
and save me from those who are bloodthirsty.

See, they lie in wait for my life;
the strong band together against me.
For no offense, no sin of mine, O LORD,
for no guilt of mine they rush to take their stand.

Awake! Come to meet me, and see!
LORD God of hosts, you are Israel's God.

As for me, I will sing of your strength,
and acclaim your faithful love in the morning,
for you have been my stronghold,
a refuge in the day of my distress.

O my Strength, to you I will sing praise,
for you, O God, are my stronghold,
the God who shows me faithful love.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:13-15

But," said Moses to God, "if I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what do I tell

them?” God replied to Moses: I am who I am. Then he added: This is what you will tell the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.

God spoke further to Moses: This is what you will say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. / This is my name forever; / this is my title for all generations.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The Lord is not God of the dead but of the living.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Ever-faithful God, in Jesus you show us the path to life. We trust in you and pray: **R7.** Guide us in your truth, O God.

Inspire government leaders to work toward justice, peace, and reconciliation. **R7.**

Help us to end all wars and the production of nuclear and chemical weapons. **R7.**

Pour your grace and peace upon the people in Uganda and all your Church as we commemorate Charles Lwanga and all martyrs. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us to confess in our hearts and by our lives that Jesus Christ is Lord, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. John the Sinner

Religious (1546–1600)

Born in Andalusia, Juan Grande apprenticed in the linen trade. Although his early life was apparently beyond reproach, he somehow carried a sense of deep unworthiness and shame. In a play on his last name, he styled himself “el grande pecador”—the great sinner—and he was glad when that nickname managed to stick.

At the age of twenty-two John gave away all his possessions and retired to a hermitage. He sought a life of solitude, but the numbers of poor and sick that crossed his path inspired him to seek a different path. Moving to the town of Jerez in Portugal, he applied himself to the plight of prisoners, who endured unspeakable conditions in the local prison. From this he turned to assisting in the town hospital. There, his example of loving service won such admiration that a wealthy benefactor rewarded him with his own hospital.

In time he decided to affiliate himself with the Order of Hospitallers, founded by St. John of God. His care for the poor and sick continued until the year 1600, when, as he nursed the victims of an outbreak of plague, he fell ill and died. He was canonized in 1996.

“John Grande was a man who did good because he was good: a practical and efficient man of few words, a merciful tenant of the Gospel of Life, a Good Samaritan, an organizer of hospitals and of hospital care, a critical conscience against injustice, abuse of authority and inadequacy. In short, he was a prophet and apostle of health care.”

—Vatican biography of St. Juan Grande Román

Mass

St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Wisdom 3:6-7, 9

As gold in the furnace, the Lord put his chosen to the test;
/ as sacrificial offerings, he took them to himself; / and in
due time they will be honored, / and grace and peace will
be with the elect of God.

COLLECT

O God, who have made the blood of Martyrs
the seed of Christians,
mercifully grant that the field which is your Church,
watered by the blood
shed by Saints Charles Lwanga and his companions,
may be fertile and always yield you an abundant harvest.
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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul
to Timothy

1:1-3, 6-12

*Stir into flame the gift of God that you have
through the laying on of my hands.*

Paul, an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God for
the promise of life in Christ Jesus, to Timothy, my dear
child: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and
Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God, whom I worship with a clear con-
science as my ancestors did, as I remember you constantly
in my prayers, night and day.

For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift
of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.

For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control. So do not be ashamed of your testimony to our Lord, nor of me, a prisoner for his sake; but bear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God.

He saved us and called us to a holy life, not according to our works but according to his own design and the grace bestowed on us in Christ Jesus before time began, but now made manifest through the appearance of our savior Christ Jesus, who destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel, for which I was appointed preacher and Apostle and teacher. On this account I am suffering these things; but I am not ashamed, for I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day. The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

123:1b-2ab, 2cdef

R. (1b) To you, O Lord, I lift up my eyes.

To you I lift up my eyes
who are enthroned in heaven.

Behold, as the eyes of servants
are on the hands of their masters. **R.**

As the eyes of a maid
are on the hands of her mistress,
So are our eyes on the LORD, our God,
till he have pity on us. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 11:25a, 26

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;
whoever believes in me will never die.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

12:18-27

He is not God of the dead but of the living.

Some Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and put this question to him, saying, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us, *If someone’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no child, his brother must take the wife and raise up descendants for his brother.* Now there were seven brothers. The first married a woman and died, leaving no descendants. So the second brother married her and died, leaving no descendants, and the third likewise. And the seven left no descendants. Last of all the woman also died. At the resurrection when they arise whose wife will she be? For all seven had been married to her.” Jesus said to them, “Are you not misled because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God? When they rise from the dead, they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but they are like the angels in heaven. As for the dead being raised, have you not read in the Book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, how God told him, *I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob?* He is not God of the dead but of the living. You are greatly misled.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We offer you sacrifice, O Lord, humbly praying
that, as you granted the blessed Martyrs
grace to die rather than sin,
so you may bring us to minister at your altar
in dedication to you alone.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 116 (115):15

How precious in the eyes of the Lord / is the death of his holy ones.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have received this divine Sacrament, O Lord,
as we celebrate the victory of your holy Martyrs;
may what helped them to endure torment, we pray,
make us, in the face of trials,
steadfast in faith and in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

In Christ's Footsteps

I am suffering these things; but I am not ashamed . . .

[E]very hardship we endure for love of God is rewarded. Its fruit is kept for us in everlasting life, where there is life without death, light without darkness, satiety without boredom, and hunger without pain. . . .

And who are we to whom these hardships are given? We are the ones who are not. Because of our sins we are deserving of a hundred thousand hells if we could receive so many. For, because we are offending the infinite Good, the consequence ought to be an infinite punishment. But God mercifully punishes us in finite time by giving us finite punishment. Hardship in this life lasts only as long as time and no longer, and so the shortness of time makes even great hardship small. Our time, say the saints, is no greater than the point of a needle; human life is so small as to be nothing. Past hardship we no longer have. As for what is still to come, we don't know

for certain whether we shall ever have it, since we aren't sure we will have the time. So we have only this present moment and no more.

So up . . . ! Rouse yourself from slumber; sleep no more! Rather follow in Christ's footsteps with living faith, with true holy patience. Bathe yourself in the blood of Christ crucified.

I'll say no more. Keep living in God's holy and tender love. Gentle Jesus! Jesus love!

St. Catherine of Siena, *Letters*

Catherine of Siena (1347–1380) was a mystic and a tertiary of the Dominican Order. She is a Doctor of the Church.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 66:1-3a, 5-9

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of God's name.
O render glorious praise.
Say to God, "How awesome your deeds!"

Come and see the works of God:
awesome deeds among the children of Adam.
God turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.

There did we rejoice in the Lord,
who rules forever with might,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations:
let rebels not exalt themselves.

O peoples, bless our God;
let our voice of praise resound,
to the God who gave life to our souls
and kept our feet from stumbling.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 1:3-7

give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you,
praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you,
because of your partnership for the gospel from the first
day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who

began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right that I should think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, you who are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Stir into flame the gift of God that you have.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Eternal and ever-living God, you promise everlasting life to all who believe in the resurrection of Jesus. In faith we pray: **R7.** Come to our aid, O God.

Grant rest and renewal to those who suffer depression, anxiety, or grief. **R7.**

Prosper the efforts of those who seek employment, affordable housing, or adequate health care. **R7.**

Watch over all who have been recommended to our prayer. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God hear us when we call, show us mercy, and grant us salvation, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Thursday, June 4

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 9:2-3, 6-11

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

I will praise you, LORD, with all my heart;
all your wonders I will recount.
I will rejoice in you and be glad,
and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

You have rebuked the nations, destroyed the wicked;
you have wiped out their name forever and ever.
The foe is destroyed, eternally ruined.
You uprooted their cities; their memory has perished.

But the LORD sits enthroned forever,
and has set up a throne for judgment.
God will judge the world with righteousness,
and will govern the peoples with equity.

For the oppressed, the LORD will be a stronghold,
a stronghold in times of distress.
Those who know your name will trust you;
you will not forsake those who seek you, O LORD.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone!
Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with your
whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole

strength. Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up. Bind them on your arm as a sign and let them be as a pendant on your forehead. Write them on the doorposts of your houses and on your gates.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Love God with all your heart and your neighbor as yourself.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God Most High, you alone are holy. We give you thanks and pray: **R7.** God of love, hear our prayer.

You show sinners the way: heal your Church of sin and division. **R7.**

You guide the humble to justice: uphold the human rights of immigrants, refugees, and migrants. **R7.**

You teach us the covenant: instill in all people a respect for life from conception to natural death. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God inscribe upon our hearts the law of love made known to us in Jesus Christ our brother. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Mary Elizabeth Hesselblad

Founder, Brigittines in Rome (1870–1957)

Mary Elizabeth Hesselblad, born 150 years ago today to a poor Lutheran family in Sweden, immigrated to the United States in 1888 and enrolled in nursing school in New York City. There, among her patients, she encountered her first Catholics. An ardent Protestant, she was initially repelled by their devotion to Mary and the saints. But at the same time she felt a mysterious attraction. Later, on witnessing a Corpus Christi procession, she heard an inner voice say, “I am the one whom you seek.” In 1902 she asked to be received into the Catholic Church.

On a pilgrimage to Rome she visited the house where St. Bridget, Sweden’s great medieval patron, had lived. The house was occupied by Carmelites, and she asked to be admitted. Yet a greater dream propelled her: to reestablish St. Bridget’s order, the Brigittines, in Rome. In 1906, with the support of Pope Pius X, her dream was realized; she recited the ancient vows and was clothed in the old Brigittine habit. The mission of the order would be “Contemplation, adoration, and reparation.” During World War II she offered refuge to many Jews, for which she was later honored in Israel as one of the Righteous Among the Nations.

Hesselblad died on April 24, 1957. She was canonized in 2016, with her feast on this date.

“Dear Lord, I do not ask to see the path. . . . I will hang on tightly to your hand and I will close my eyes, so that you know how much trust I place in you, Spouse of my soul.”

—St. Mary Elizabeth Hesselblad

Mass

Thursday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 25 (24):16, 18

Turn to me and have mercy on me, O Lord, / for I am alone and poor. / See my lowliness and suffering / and take away all my sins, my God.

COLLECT

O God, whose providence never fails in its design, keep from us, we humbly beseech you, all that might harm us and grant all that works for our good. 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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

2:8-15

The word of God is not chained. If we have died with Christ, we shall also live with him.

Beloved: Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my Gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: / If we have died with him / we shall also live with him; / if we persevere / we shall also reign with him. / But if we deny him / he will deny us. / If we are unfaithful / he remains faithful, / for he cannot deny himself.

Remind people of these things and charge them before God to stop disputing about words. This serves no useful purpose since it harms those who listen. Be eager to present yourself as acceptable to God, a workman who causes no disgrace, imparting the word of truth without deviation. The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14

R. (4) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior. **R.**

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice,
he teaches the humble his way. **R.**

All the paths of the LORD are kindness and constancy
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
The friendship of the LORD is with those who fear him,
and his covenant, for their instruction. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See 2 Timothy 1:10

Our Savior Jesus Christ has destroyed death
and brought life to light through the Gospel.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

12:28-34

There is no commandment greater than these.

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, “Which is the first of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “The first is this: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord*

alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these.” The scribe said to him, “Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, *He is One and there is no other than he. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself* is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, “You are not far from the Kingdom of God.” And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Trusting in your compassion, O Lord,
we come eagerly with our offerings to your sacred altar,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 17 (16):6

To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God; / turn
your ear to me; hear my words.

Or:

Mark 11:23, 24

Amen, I say to you: Whatever you ask for in prayer, /
believe you will receive it, / and it will be yours, says the
Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Govern by your Spirit, we pray, O Lord,
those you feed with the Body and Blood of your Son,
that, professing you not just in word or in speech,
but also in works and in truth,
we may merit to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Love Myself?

If I were literally sitting alongside Jesus, I would ask him a similar question to the one in today's Gospel: What is the most important message for me to know? If I ask Jesus that question in prayer, he answers with this Gospel, and I love it! There is only one God whom you are to love with all your heart, mind, strength, and you must love your neighbor as yourself! Really? Wow! It's easier for me to love this wonderful God of ours than it is to love my neighbor as myself—because that means I must first love myself, this imperfect woman that I am.

The challenge for me in this passage is to reflect on what pulls my focus away from loving God, myself, and others. I must stay mindful of God's Presence in everyday events and remind myself that the daily matters. I must remember each day that the person I see at work, at school, in the grocery store, in my kitchen at home all are images of God and must be treated with respect and reverence.

Perhaps the most important message for me to know is that I am loved unconditionally by God. Through my life's

experiences, I have come to believe that God loves me as I am, warts and all, and this empowers me to love myself.

If we can love and accept ourselves as we are, then we can more easily love our imperfect neighbor as ourselves—and more clearly be able to love God with all our being. I really desire to accept this challenge.

Sr. Karen Joseph

Karen Joseph is a member of the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana, where she serves in spirituality ministry.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 132:1-10

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

O LORD, remember David
and all the hardships he endured,
the oath he swore to the LORD,
his vow to the Strong One of Jacob.

“I will not enter the house where I dwell,
nor go to the bed where I rest;
I will give no sleep to my eyes,
to my eyelids I will give no slumber,
till I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling for the Strong One of Jacob.”

We heard of it at Ephrata;
we found it in the plains of Yearim.
“Let us go to the place of God’s dwelling;
let us bow down at God’s footstool.”

Go up, LORD, to the place of your rest,
you and the ark of your strength.
Your priests shall be clothed with righteousness;
your faithful shall ring out their joy.
For the sake of David your servant,
do not reject your anointed.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:12-15

We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you an opportunity to boast of us, so that you

may have something to say to those who boast of external appearance rather than of the heart. For if we are out of our minds, it is for God; if we are rational, it is for you. For the love of Christ impels us, once we have come to the conviction that one died for all; therefore, all have died. He indeed died for all, so that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

If we have died with him, we shall also live with him.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Provident God, you answer the cries of the poor. With trust in your compassion and love, we pray: **R**. Hear us, O God.

Show mercy to those who suffer regret, and renew their hope. **R**.

Sensitize us to the fragile beauty of the natural world, and inspire our care for the earth. **R**.

Give peace and patience to families that grieve the death of a loved one. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with grateful and hopeful hearts, through Jesus our redeemer, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday, June 5

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 90:1-4, 13-17

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

O Lord, you have been our refuge,
from generation to generation.
Before the mountains were born,
or the earth or the world were brought forth,
you are God, from age to age.

You turn human beings back to dust,
and say, "Return, O children of Adam."
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
or like a watch in the night.

Turn back, O LORD! How long?
Show pity to your servants.
At dawn, fill us with your faithful love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy for the days of our affliction,
for the years when we looked upon evil.

Let your deed be seen by your servants,
and your glorious power by their children.
Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us;
give success to the work of our hands.
O give success to the work of our hands.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 16:11-13a

Then Samuel asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” Jesse replied, “There is still the youngest, but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Send for him; we will not sit down to eat until he arrives here.” Jesse had the young man brought to them. He was ruddy, a youth with beautiful eyes, and good looking. The LORD said: There— anoint him, for this is the one! Then Samuel, with the horn of oil in hand, anointed him in the midst of his brothers, and from that day on, the spirit of the LORD rushed upon David.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The son of David will reign forever.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Merciful God, you strengthened St. Boniface with your own Body and Blood. In company with all the saints we pray: **R.** God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Prosper the work of missionaries, and help your Church to bring all people closer to Jesus. **R.**

Inspire preachers, catechists, and all who preach the living word. **R.**

Shower your tender care upon those who are persecuted for their faith. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May the love of God and the peace of Christ be the root and foundation of our lives, by the power of the Holy Spirit working in us. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Blessed Malgorzata Szewczyk

Founder, Seraphic Sisters (1828–1905)

Lucja Szewczyk was born to Polish parents in what was then Ukraine. Orphaned as a young girl, she was raised by an older half sister. Though she felt an early call to religious life, the atmosphere of anti-Catholic repression, under tsarist occupation, made this impossible. Instead, she became a Third Order Franciscan. In 1870, along with a companion, she undertook a long and difficult pilgrimage to the Holy Land, where she remained for three years. Moved at finding herself in the very land where Jesus had lived and suffered, she made a vow to dedicate herself to God's service, and so, while still there, she began caring for other sick and elderly pilgrims. Eventually she returned to Poland, settling in Warsaw, where she worked in an orphanage.

With the encouragement of her confessor, to whom she confided her desire to pursue religious life, she took private religious vows. Immediately she welcomed two old women to share her apartment. Before long, with other helpers, she rented another apartment, and then a house with a garden where they could provide hospitality to the sick and elderly. So as not to attract attention, they wore secular clothes. But eventually, in 1881, they founded a new order, the Seraphic Sisters, with Lucja—now Mother Malgorzata—as superior. She occupied this post until ill health forced her retirement in 1904. She died the following year on June 5, 1905.

She was beatified in 2013.

“For the glory of God and the good of suffering humanity.”

—Blessed Malgorzata Szewczyk

Mass

St. Boniface, Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

This holy man fought to the death for the law of his God /
and did not fear the words of the godless, / for he was
built on solid rock.

Or:

Cf. Wisdom 10:12

The Lord granted him a stern struggle, / that he might
know that wisdom is mightier than all else.

COLLECT

May the Martyr Saint Boniface be our advocate, O Lord,
that we may firmly hold the faith
he taught with his lips and sealed in his blood
and confidently profess it by our deeds.
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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul
to Timothy

3:10-17

All who want to live religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.

You have followed my teaching, way of life, purpose,
faith, patience, love, endurance, persecutions, and
sufferings, such as happened to me in Antioch, Iconium,
and Lystra, persecutions that I endured. Yet from all these
things the Lord delivered me. In fact, all who want to live
religiously in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. But wicked
people and charlatans will go from bad to worse, deceivers
and deceived. But you, remain faithful to what you have
learned and believed, because you know from whom you

learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168

R7. (165a) O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.

Though my persecutors and my foes are many,
I turn not away from your decrees. **R7.**

Permanence is your word's chief trait;
each of your just ordinances is everlasting. **R7.**

Princes persecute me without cause
but my heart stands in awe of your word. **R7.**

Those who love your law have great peace,
and for them there is no stumbling block. **R7.**

I wait for your salvation, O LORD,
and your commands I fulfill. **R7.**

I keep your precepts and your decrees,
for all my ways are before you. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:23

Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him
and we will come to him.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

12:35-37

How do the scribes claim that the Christ is the son of David?

As Jesus was teaching in the temple area he said, “How do the scribes claim that the Christ is the son of David? David himself, inspired by the Holy Spirit, said: / *The Lord said to my lord, / ‘Sit at my right hand / until I place your enemies under your feet.’* / David himself calls him ‘lord’; so how is he his son?” The great crowd heard this with delight.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify our offerings by your blessing,
O Lord, we pray,
and by your grace may we be set afire
with that flame of your love
through which Saint Boniface overcame every bodily
torment.

Through Christ our Lord.

Or:

May the offerings we bring in commemoration of blessed
Saint Boniface
be acceptable to you, we pray, O Lord,
so that they may be pleasing to your majesty
just as the shedding of this Martyr’s blood
was precious in your sight.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Matthew 16:24

Whoever wishes to come after me, must deny himself, /
take up his cross, and follow me, says the Lord.

Or:

Matthew 10:39

Whoever loses his life for my sake, / will find it in
eternity, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the sacred mysteries of which we have partaken,
O Lord, we pray,
give us that determination which made your blessed
Martyr Saint Boniface
faithful in your service
and victorious in suffering.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

The Best Kind of Delight

“The great crowd heard this with delight.”

Pleasing an audience is tempting. It feels good to receive a compliment or applause, so good that we can become too reliant on such adulation. Jesus probably enjoyed moments like the one in today’s Gospel. Like an astute debater, he applies logic to make a point in his ongoing contest with the scribes and Pharisees. The crowd likes it. But crowds are fickle. A furious crowd chased Jesus out of his hometown. Conspirators murmured accusations to stoke opposition. An angry throng turned on him in the end, with a chorus of “Crucify him!”

I remember as a young priest how much I loved it when people praised my homilies. I got so hooked on delighting the crowd that I found myself tempering my words at times, not wanting to alienate them. When we rely on a crowd or person as the sole source of our delight, we are at risk of compromising ourselves or letting a prophetic moment pass by.

The best kind of delight, the kind that stays no matter what the crowd thinks, is the delight that comes from within. We delight when we are authentic—when what we say and do flows from the deepest sense of who we are. We delight when we are grateful, even if the crowd would rather complain. We delight when we take ourselves less seriously and not let the opinion of others make or break our day.

In her diaries, Dorothy Day wrote that “we are called to the duty of delight.” By this she meant being intentional about cultivating a spirit of joy: “To act lovingly is to begin to feel loving, and certainly to act joyfully brings joy to others which in turn makes one feel joyful.” In this way, delighting is more invitation than temptation.

Fr. Kevin O’Brien

Kevin O’Brien, SJ, is president of Santa Clara University and author of The Ignatian Adventure: Experiencing the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius in Daily Life.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 102:2-3, 25-29

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Hear my prayer, O LORD,
and let my cry come to you.
Do not hide your face from me
in the day of my distress.
Turn your ear towards me;
on the day when I call,
speedily answer me.

I say: “My God, do not take me away
before half of my days are complete,
you, whose days last from age to age.

Long ago you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.
They will perish but you will remain.
They will all wear out like a garment.
You will change them like clothes, and they change.
But you are the same, and your years do not end.”

The children of your servants shall dwell untroubled,
and their descendants established before you.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Finally . . . pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may
speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you,
and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked

people, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. We are confident of you in the Lord that what we instruct you, you [both] are doing and will continue to do. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of life and love, you made us, and we belong to you. In faith we pray: **R7.** Fill us with your Spirit, O God.

Widen our circle of concern, and help us to be inclusive in our love. **R7.**

Energize leaders of religious communities with good zeal, courage, and patience. **R7.**

Help us to show mercy to those who are near death and be mindful of those who grieve. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God give us joy for the days of our affliction and make us grateful for the love Christ has shown for us. Amen.

Saturday, June 6

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 50:1-2, 7-9, 14-15

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

The God of gods, the LORD,
has spoken and summoned the earth,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.
Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
God is shining forth.

“Listen, my people, I will speak;
Israel, I will testify against you,
for I am God, your God.

“I do not rebuke you for your sacrifices;
your offerings are always before me.
I do not take more bullocks from your farms,
nor goats from among your herds.

“Give your praise as a sacrifice to God,
and fulfill your vows to the Most High.
Then call on me in the day of distress.
I will deliver you and you shall honor me.”

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Tobit 12:7b-9

Do good, and evil will not overtake you. Prayer with
fasting is good. Almsgiving with righteousness is better

than wealth with wickedness. It is better to give alms than to store up gold, for almsgiving saves from death, and purges all sin. Those who give alms will enjoy a full life.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Generous God, you inspired the poor widow to contribute her whole livelihood. In humility we pray:

R. Lead us to your kingdom, O God.

Make your Church a place of welcome for the poor and lowly. **R**.

Free us from the accumulation of riches and temporal treasures. **R**.

Let our hearts find joy in living the Gospel. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May the Spirit of God find a home in us, through Jesus our peace. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Norbert

Archbishop and Founder (1080–1134)

When Norbert was appointed archbishop of Magdeburg, he arrived in the city barefoot and dressed so poorly that the porter at the episcopal palace initially turned him away as a beggar. “Never mind, dear brother,” the new bishop reassured the porter, sorely abashed to discover his error. “You judge me more truly than those who brought me here.”

St. Norbert began his life under far different circumstances. The son of a count in Xanten (in present-day Germany), he was accustomed to a life of ease and luxury. His life took a different course one day when he was thrown from his horse during a thunderstorm. Echoing the words of Saul on the road to Damascus, he cried, “Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?” In response he heard the words, “Turn away from evil, and do good. Seek peace and pursue it.” From that point he determined to live “an evangelical and apostolic life.”

After ordination as a priest, Norbert gave away his property. In the valley of Prémontré in France, he founded a new religious community, known in time as the Norbertines. Later, as archbishop of Magdeburg, Norbert continued to follow the austere life of a monk. His wide service was recognized by the pope, who named him primate of all Germany. St. Norbert died in 1134; he was canonized in 1582.

“O Priest! . . . What then are you? Nothing and everything. O Priest! Take care lest what was said to Christ on the cross be said to you: ‘He saved others, himself he cannot save!’”

—St. Norbert

Mass

Saturday of the Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

[*St. Norbert, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 25 (24):16, 18

Turn to me and have mercy on me, O Lord, / for I am alone and poor. / See my lowliness and suffering / and take away all my sins, my God.

COLLECT

O God, whose providence never fails in its design, keep from us, we humbly beseech you, all that might harm us and grant all that works for our good. 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.

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy

4:1-8

I am already being poured out and the crown of righteousness awaits me which the Lord will award to me.

Beloved: I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22

R⁷. (see 15ab) I will sing of your salvation.

My mouth shall be filled with your praise,
with your glory day by day.

Cast me not off in my old age;
as my strength fails, forsake me not. **R⁷.**

But I will always hope
and praise you ever more and more.

My mouth shall declare your justice,
day by day your salvation. **R⁷.**

I will treat of the mighty works of the Lord;
O GOD, I will tell of your singular justice.

O God, you have taught me from my youth,
and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds. **R⁷.**

So will I give you thanks with music on the lyre,
for your faithfulness, O my God!

I will sing your praises with the harp,
O Holy One of Israel! **R⁷.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:3

Blessed are the poor in spirit;
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

12:38-44

This poor widow has given more than all others.

In the course of his teaching Jesus said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation.”

He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Trusting in your compassion, O Lord,
we come eagerly with our offerings to your sacred altar,
that, through the purifying action of your grace,
we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 17 (16):6

To you I call, for you will surely heed me, O God; / turn
your ear to me; hear my words.

Or:

Mark 11:23, 24

Amen, I say to you: Whatever you ask for in prayer, /
believe you will receive it, / and it will be yours, says
the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Govern by your Spirit, we pray, O Lord,
those you feed with the Body and Blood of your Son,
that, professing you not just in word or in speech,
but also in works and in truth,
we may merit to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.**

Reflection

Longing for Christ's Appearance

“How many wars will it take, how much more butchery, how much more blood, how much more mayhem, to get you to move Lord?”

One thing is for sure, if God does not come to fix his world, nobody else can do it for him. To be blunt about it, his is the only game in town.

I put all my eggs in God's basket for one reason: Jesus died and came back to life again. Then he became the lifegiving Spirit to give us, be it in driblets, a sampling of the good world we are waiting for. This is where the trolley stops. If it could be proven beyond doubt that Jesus did not come alive after he was murdered, we have lost our one and only reason for hoping that there can be a good future for the world. Without Jesus we are stuck with two options: utopian illusion or deadly despair. I scorn illusion. I dread despair. So I put all my money on Jesus.

When I was young I hoped with all my heart that Christ would never come, that he would stay up in heaven where he belonged and leave me alone. Every Sunday morning as my family shuffled down to our pew in the Berean church, I

was scared half to death by a biblical prayer, taken from the Book of Revelation, painted large on the front wall: *Maranatha; Even So Come Quickly, Lord Jesus*. I countered it, each Lord's Day, with a prayer of my own: *Oh, Jesus, please, take your time*. Now, when I am lying in bed awake at night, I find myself humming an impatient gospel song that chilled me to the bone every time the congregation sang it, always as if we were standing at the station waiting for a tardy train that is carrying our soldier boy back from the wars.

Oh, Lord Jesus, how long?
How long ere we shout the glad song:
Christ returneth, Halleluiah, Amen.

Lewis Smedes, *My God and I*

Lewis B. Smedes (1921–2002) was a professor of ethics and theology at Fuller Theological Seminary and an award-winning author.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 48:2-4, 9-11

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Great is the LORD and highly to be praised
in the city of our God,
whose holy mountain rises in beauty,
the joy of all the earth.

Mount Zion, in the heart of the North,
the city of the Mighty King!
God, in the midst of her citadels,
is shown to be her stronghold.

As we have heard, so we have seen
in the city of our God,
in the city of the LORD of hosts,
which God establishes forever.

Your faithful love, O God,
we ponder in your temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 9:19, 23-25

Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself
a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. All

this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it.

Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Put up with hardship; fulfill your ministry.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of truth, in Christ Jesus you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing. In confidence we pray: **R7**. Lead us by your light, O God.

Give joy to those who follow you in the single vocation. **R7**.

Strengthen the bonds of love between spouses. **R7**.

Animate the good zeal of deacons, seminarians, and pastors. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God make us firm in faith, steadfast in hope, and strong in love, through Jesus our brother. Amen.



Sunday, June 7

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 118:24-29

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.

We beseech you, O LORD, grant salvation;
We beseech you, O LORD, grant success.
Blest is he who comes
in the name of the LORD.

We bless you from the house of the LORD;
the LORD is God, and has given us light.

Go forward in procession with branches,
as far as the horns of the altar.

You are my God, I thank you.

My God, I praise you.

Give thanks to the LORD, who is good,
whose faithful love endures forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Sirach 43:28-31

Let us praise [God] the more, since we cannot fathom him, / for greater is he than all his works; / Awesome indeed is the LORD, / and wonderful his power. / Lift up your voices to glorify the LORD / as much as you can, for there is still more. / Extol him with renewed strength, / do not grow

weary, for you cannot fathom him. / For who has seen him and can describe him? / Who can praise him as he is?

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in love.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Triune God, Communion of Love, we ponder your mystery and pray: **R7.** Give us breath to praise you, O God.

Wonderful is your power: let all creation find life in you. **R7.**

Awesome are your works: sing the resurrection song in the hearts of all the faithful. **R7.**

Magnificent is your love: work through your Church to unite and heal families separated because of politics, war, or poverty. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the loving communion of persons that is our Triune God abide in us, now and always. Amen.

Mass

The Most Holy Trinity, Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Blest be God the Father, / and the Only Begotten Son of God, / and also the Holy Spirit, / for he has shown us his merciful love.

GLORIA (p. 330)

COLLECT

God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery, grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty. 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.

A reading from the Book of Exodus

34:4b-6, 8-9

The Lord, the Lord, a merciful and gracious God.

Early in the morning Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.

Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, "LORD." Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship. Then he said, "If I find favor with you, O LORD, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked

people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55

R. (52b) Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever;
and blessed is your holy and glorious name,
praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages. **R.**

Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory,
praiseworthy and glorious above all forever. **R.**

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. **R.**

Blessed are you who look into the depths
from your throne upon the cherubim,
praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. **R.**

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians

13:11-13

*The grace of Jesus Christ and the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.*

Brothers and sisters, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Revelation 1:8

Glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;
to God who is, who was, and who is to come.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 3:16-18

God sent his Son that the world might be saved through him.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 331)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify by the invocation of your name,
we pray, O Lord our God,
this oblation of our service,
and by it make of us an eternal offering to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Galatians 4:6

Since you are children of God, / God has sent into your
hearts the Spirit of his Son, / the Spirit who cries out:
Abba, Father.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May receiving this Sacrament, O Lord our God,
bring us health of body and soul,
as we confess your eternal holy Trinity and undivided Unity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

It Remains a Mystery

My appreciation for Trinity Sunday grew considerably when I heard an Episcopal priest say in a homily that she never felt as close to the Trinity as when she learned she was pregnant with twins. A perfect image of three-in-one.

I'm grateful that nature provides us with other metaphors. One comes from Tertullian, thought to be the first Christian theologian to mention the Trinity in Latin. He imagines it as a plant, with the Father as the root, the Son as the shoot breaking forth into the world, and the Spirit as that which fills the earth with flower and fruit. Modern physics offers us the quark, a subatomic particle which exists in threes. There is no such thing as one quark, but only three interdependent beings, acting together.

Yet even with such helpful images, the Trinity remains a mystery, and that is as it should be. In today's readings Moses stands with God on Mount Sinai. Admitting that we humans are stiff-necked and sinful, he offers a merciful God this remarkable invitation: "do come along in our company." Paul reminds us—and the unruly Corinthians—that the way to recognize God's presence among us is to mend our ways, encourage one another, stop arguing, and live in peace. And John reminds us that God loved us so much that he gave us his only Son, that we might gain eternal life. Behind these stories, as vital yet hidden as roots and quarks, I sense the Trinity waiting expectantly for us.

Kathleen Norris

*Kathleen Norris is an oblate of St. Benedict and the author of many books, including *The Cloister Walk* and *Acedia and Me*.*

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 144:9-15

To you, O God, will I sing a new song;
I will play on the ten-stringed harp
to you who give kings their victory,
who redeemed your servant David,
from the evil sword.

Rescue me, free me from the hands of foreign foes,
whose mouths speak lies,
whose right hands are raised in perjury.

Let our sons then flourish like saplings,
grown tall and strong from their youth;
our daughters graceful as columns,
as though they were carved for a palace.

Let our barns be filled to overflowing
with crops of every kind;
our sheep increasing by thousands,
tens of thousands in our fields,
our cattle heavy with young.

No ruined wall, no exile,
no sound of weeping in our streets.
Blessed the people of whom this is true;
blessed the people whose God is the LORD!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 4:4-7

When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption. As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that we might have eternal life.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of mystery and grace, hear your beloved children as we pray: **R7.** Holy Trinity, receive our prayer.

Give us courage to proclaim your word and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. **R7.**

Transform our suffering into places of grace for ourselves and others. **R7.**

Shine the light of your face on the dying, and welcome them into your eternal embrace. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us and remain with us for all time. Amen.



June 7–13

Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

Within the Word

Who Can Follow Elijah?

Prophets frequently come in strange packages. Is this eccentricity a personality trait they seem to flaunt? Is it a theatrical ploy meant to capture the attention of an unmindful audience? Or might the prophets be the normal ones in society, the ones with remarkably profound insight while the rest of us are people with dull or dulled perceptions?

Was Elijah the prophet normal? We might wonder. He was fed by ravens when the rest of the nation was suffering from hunger. He was able to call down fire from heaven to consume a water-drenched sacrifice. He predicted the return of rain after a merciless drought. He eventually was carried up into heaven in a fiery chariot. Furthermore, the fact that there is no report of his death and burial led the people to believe Elijah would someday return to earth to herald the end of time (Mal 3:23; Matt 11:14). Yet Elijah was and continues to be a prophet of great interest and importance in the religious traditions of both Judaism and Christianity.

Elijah was a champion of monotheism (the belief in one God) at a time when Israel was unfaithful to its covenant commitment to God. His very name, “Eli-jah,” means “my God is YHWH,” which captures his passion for God and the essence of his prophetic ministry.

The readings for this week (and into the next) describe the Israelite’s infidelity along with the misfortune that it triggered, misfortune that transpired through the agency of the prophet.

Elijah announced a devastating drought, which brought on a brutal famine that swept the land. God worked through him in positive ways as well. A widow of Zarephath, who with her son faced certain starvation, complied with the directives of the prophet and was blessed with a year's supply of flour and oil. As mentioned earlier, Elijah seemed to have power over the elements, calling down fire and rain from heaven. Through all of this he was an agent of God's power, not his own. This is especially evident in his intimate encounter with God, who speaks to Elijah in a tiny whispering sound.

Who could possibly be a follower of such a remarkable man as Elijah? Yet he had a follower, one who would ultimately become his successor: Elisha.

Why was the memory of Elijah kept alive? What religious value do these stories have for us today? Elijah was, and continues to be a hero and a model. The passion he had for God enabled him to stand strong in the face of both political and social infidelity. Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, brought worship of her pagan gods into Israel, and many Israelites capitulated to it. Not Elijah. Rather, he went to extremes to be faithful himself and to call others to faithfulness. In this way, he stood in opposition to Jezebel, thus making her his mortal enemy. This also cast him outside the support of the community.

Was Elijah a radical? In his surroundings, any form of religious fidelity would have seemed radical. In that way, Elijah is a model for people of God in all times who have to take such stands and risk alienation. There is nothing eccentric or theatrical about creating a new and prophetic normal.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant

Dianne Bergant, CSA, is Carroll Stuhlmueller, CP, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Old Testament Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Monday, June 8

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 65:6, 10-14

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

With wondrous deliverance you answer us,
O God our savior.
You are the hope of all the earth,
and of far distant seas.

You visit the earth, give it water;
you fill it with riches.
God's ever-flowing river brims over
to prepare the grain.

And thus it is you who prepare it:
you drench its furrows;
you level it, soften it with showers;
you bless its growth.

You crown the year with your bounty,
and abundance flows in your pathways.
The pastures of the desert overflow,
and the hills are girded with joy,

The meadows are clothed with flocks,
and the valleys are decked with wheat.
They shout for joy, and even sing!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 22:22-28

I kept the ways of the LORD; / I was not disloyal to my God.
/ His laws were all before me, / his decrees I did not cast
aside. / I was honest toward him; / I was on guard against sin.
/ So the LORD rewarded my righteousness, / the cleanness of
my hands in his sight. / Toward the faithful you are faithful;
/ to the honest you are honest; / Toward the sincere you are
sincere; / but to the perverse you are devious. / Humble people
you save, / though on the haughty your eyes look down.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or
another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, you favor us with your mercy and love. In
faith we pray: **R7.** Keep us in your good grace, O God.

Inspire fruitful dialogue among the laity, religious, and
clergy in your Church. **R7.**

Watch over children and young people who are separated
from their families. **R7.**

Heal those who are hospitalized or undergoing treatment
for serious illness. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God protect us from all harm, watch over our
coming and going, and keep us in peace. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Mariam Thresia Mankidiyan

Founder, Congregation of the Holy Family

(1876–1926)

Mariam Thresia Mankidiyan was born to a poor Catholic family in the southern Indian state of Kerala. When she was twelve her mother died, forcing her to leave school to help care for her siblings. As she grew older she spent more time performing chores in her local church, while in her spare time she visited the sick, old, and friendless members of the parish. Some felt it was unseemly for an unaccompanied young woman to travel the streets. But her confessor began to recognize her unusual spiritual gifts.

In 1903 she asked permission of her bishop to build a house of prayer. For many years he refused but eventually gave his consent. There, along with a number of companions, she combined a life of prayer with ongoing service among the sick and poor. The bishop soon encouraged them to form a religious congregation. And so was born the Congregation of the Holy Family, with Mother Mariam as superior. As their numbers grew, they added additional convents, schools, and orphanages.

Mother Mariam experienced visions of Mary and Jesus, and received other extraordinary spiritual gifts—including the stigmata. She died on June 8, 1926, and was beatified in 2000. At that time there were over 1,500 professed sisters in her congregation in 176 houses in India, Germany, Italy, and Ghana. Her canonization followed in 2019.

“From childhood my soul agonized with an intense desire to love God.”

—St. Mariam Thresia Mankidiyan

Mass

Monday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):1-2

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
/ The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I
dread? / When those who do evil draw near, they stumble
and fall.

COLLECT

O God, from whom all good things come,
grant that we, who call on you in our need,
may at your prompting discern what is right,
and by your guidance do it.

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.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

17:1-6

Elijah stands before the LORD God of Israel.

Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab:
“As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve,
during these years there shall be no dew or rain except at
my word.” The LORD then said to Elijah: “Leave here, go east
and hide in the Wadi Cherith, east of the Jordan. You shall
drink of the stream, and I have commanded ravens to feed
you there.” So he left and did as the LORD had commanded.
He went and remained by the Wadi Cherith, east of the
Jordan. Ravens brought him bread and meat in the morn-
ing, and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from
the stream.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

121:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

R. (see 2) **Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;
whence shall help come to me?
My help is from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth. **R.**

May he not suffer your foot to slip;
may he slumber not who guards you:
Indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps,
the guardian of Israel. **R.**

The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is your shade;
he is beside you at your right hand.
The sun shall not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night. **R.**

The LORD will guard you from all evil;
he will guard your life.
The LORD will guard your coming and your going,
both now and forever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:12a

Rejoice and be glad;
for your reward will be great in heaven.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:1-12

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: / “Blessed are the poor in spirit, / for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. / Blessed are they who mourn, / for they will be comforted. / Blessed are

the meek, / for they will inherit the land. / Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, / for they will be satisfied. / Blessed are the merciful, / for they will be shown mercy. / Blessed are the clean of heart, / for they will see God. / Blessed are the peacemakers, / for they will be called children of God. / Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, / for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. / Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look kindly upon our service, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer
may be an acceptable oblation to you
and lead us to grow in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 18 (17):3

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; / my
God is my saving strength.

Or:

1 John 4:16

God is love, and whoever abides in love / abides in God,
and God in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your healing work, O Lord,
free us, we pray, from doing evil
and lead us to what is right.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Blessed Are the Poor

The poor are all those without power, without influence, without rights, those falling through the cracks in society. The poor are welfare recipients and immigrants, all those who are blamed for the economic problems of the day. They are the victims and casualties of violence, those caught in political cross-fires, made homeless, landless, nationless. Afterwards they are caught in the web of economic injustices that result from war, racial and ethnic hatreds, and religious conflict. They are those who must rely on God's providence and care, for *we* have abandoned them. They must trust God because they know from experience that they cannot trust us, even those of us who call ourselves faithful believers in God, the God who became human and dwells among us in flesh and blood. And the poor, those blessed in the scriptures, hardly know that blessing consciously. More often they are completely unaware of being beloved of God.

I am always struck by a simple devastating memory when I bless the food I am about to eat. One day a couple of years ago when I was on vacation in southern Mexico near the Chiapas border, I had spent the morning with some youngsters talking about the rebels and church, about Bishop Ruiz and the gospel for the following Sunday. I bought lunch for a half dozen of these street urchins, as most people would call them, and one of them said grace. It was a direct hit: God is great. God is good. God lives in this neighborhood. I have never forgotten that experience, and when I eat in so many places around the world, I wonder: does God live so clearly in this neighborhood, in my neighborhood?

Megan McKenna, *Blessings and Woes*

Megan McKenna is an author, theologian, storyteller, and lecturer. She has taught at a number of schools, including Fordham University and the Washington Theological Union.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 7:2-6, 9-10

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

O LORD, my God, I take refuge in you.
Save and rescue me from all my pursuers,
lest like a lion they tear me apart,
and drag me off with no one to rescue me.

If I have done this, O LORD, my God,
if there is wrong on my hands,
if I have paid back evil for good,
or plundered my foe without cause:

Then let my foes pursue my soul and seize me,
let them trample my life to the ground,
and lay my honor in the dust.

The LORD is judge of the peoples.
Give judgment for me, O LORD,
for I am righteous and blameless of heart.

Put an end to the evil of the wicked!
Make the righteous stand firm.
It is you who test mind and heart,
O righteous God!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

James 5:16-18

Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful. Elijah was a human being like us; yet he prayed earnestly that it might not rain, and

for three years and six months it did not rain upon the land. Then he prayed again, and the sky gave rain and the earth produced its fruit.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Elijah was a mighty prophet of the Lord.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Creating God, you are our help from our youth. In trust we pray: **R7.** God, come to our aid.

Inspire efforts to address climate change. **R7.**

Give patience, wisdom, and compassion to coaches, youth leaders, and camp counselors. **R7.**

Grant rest to those who suffer from insomnia or exhaustion. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us, strengthen us in hope, and give us peace, through Jesus our Shepherd. Amen.

Tuesday, June 9

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 18:2-7, 17-18

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

I love you, LORD, my strength;
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my savior;
my God, my rock where I take refuge;
my shield, my saving strength, my stronghold.
I cry out, “O praised be the LORD!”
and see, I am saved from my foes.

The waves of death rose about me;
the torrents of destruction assailed me;
the snares of Sheol surrounded me;
the traps of death confronted me.

In my anguish I called to the LORD;
I cried to my God for help.
In the heavenly temple my voice was heard;
my crying reached God’s ears.

From on high God reached down and seized me,
drew me forth from the mighty waters,
and saved me from my powerful foe,
from my enemies, whose strength I could not match.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 16:13b-14, 16a, 17-18

In the morning there was a layer of dew all about the camp,
and when the layer of dew evaporated, fine flakes were

on the surface of the wilderness, fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground.

“Now, this is what the LORD has commanded. Gather as much of it as each needs to eat.” The Israelites did so. Some gathered a large and some a small amount. But when they measured it out by the omer, the one who had gathered a large amount did not have too much, and the one who had gathered a small amount did not have too little. They gathered as much as each needed to eat.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, our rock and fortress, you are our saving strength. In faith we pray: **R**̇. Shine the light of your face on us, O God.

Make your Church a beacon of hope for peace and charity among all people. **R**̇.

Unite Christians in efforts to protect the life and dignity of the unborn and of women. **R**̇.

Restore health to the sick, and inspire medical researchers in their work to cure diseases. **R**̇.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us, look upon us with kindness, and lead us along the ways of love, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Blessed Diana d'Andalò

Dominican (ca. 1201–1236)

Diana d'Andalò, daughter of a powerful family in Bologna, persuaded her father to allow the Dominicans to establish a priory on his property. Deeply impressed by the friars' preaching, Diana had met privately with St. Dominic, who witnessed her vow of virginity. After her father refused to let her enter religious life, she ran off to a nearby Augustinian convent and took the veil. When her brothers came to remove her by force, she put up a fight and suffered broken ribs in the process.

Meanwhile, Jordan of Saxony, Dominic's successor as Master General, interceded on her behalf. He persuaded her family to accept her vocation and even got them to establish a Dominican convent, where Diana eventually found a home. From his surviving correspondence, it is clear that he and Diana shared a deep affection. In one of his letters, he wrote, "I cannot, beloved, see you in the flesh as often as you and I would wish and enjoy the comfort of our meeting. But my heart's desire receives some alleviation when I can visit you by letter and inform you how things are going with me, even as I long to hear how you are faring . . ."

Diana died in 1236; Jordan a year later. She was beatified in 1891; he in 1825.

"Unhappy, Diana, is our present lot. Here below our love cannot be without sorrow and care. For you grieve . . . that you cannot see me constantly, I too that I may so seldom have the joy of seeing you."

—Blessed Jordan of Saxony to Blessed Diana d'Andalò

Mass

Tuesday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

[*St. Ephrem, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):1-2

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
/ The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I
dread? / When those who do evil draw near, they stumble
and fall.

COLLECT

O God, from whom all good things come,
grant that we, who call on you in our need,
may at your prompting discern what is right,
and by your guidance do it.

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.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

17:7-16

*The jar of flour shall not go empty, as the LORD had foretold
through Elijah.*

The brook near where Elijah was hiding ran dry, because no rain had fallen in the land. So the LORD said to Elijah: "Move on to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have designated a widow there to provide for you." He left and went to Zarephath. As he arrived at the entrance of the city, a widow was gathering sticks there; he called out to her, "Please bring me a small cupful of water to drink." She left to get it, and he called out after her, "Please bring along a bit of bread." She answered, "As the LORD, your God, lives, I have nothing baked; there is only a handful of flour in my jar and a little oil in my jug. Just now I was collecting a

couple of sticks, to go in and prepare something for myself and my son; when we have eaten it, we shall die.” Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid. Go and do as you propose. But first make me a little cake and bring it to me. Then you can prepare something for yourself and your son. For the LORD, the God of Israel, says, “The jar of flour shall not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, until the day when the LORD sends rain upon the earth.” She left and did as Elijah had said. She was able to eat for a year, and Elijah and her son as well; the jar of flour did not go empty, nor the jug of oil run dry, as the LORD had foretold through Elijah.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

4:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8

R. (7a) Lord, let your face shine on us.

When I call, answer me, O my just God,
 you who relieve me when I am in distress;
 Have pity on me, and hear my prayer!
 Men of rank, how long will you be dull of heart?
 Why do you love what is vain and seek after
 falsehood? **R.**

Know that the LORD does wonders for his faithful one;
 the LORD will hear me when I call upon him.
 Tremble, and sin not;
 reflect, upon your beds, in silence. **R.**

O LORD, let the light of your countenance shine upon us!
 You put gladness into my heart,
 more than when grain and wine abound. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine before others
 that they may see your good deeds and glorify your
 heavenly Father.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look kindly upon our service, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer
may be an acceptable oblation to you
and lead us to grow in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 18 (17):3

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; / my
God is my saving strength.

Or:

1 John 4:16

God is love, and whoever abides in love / abides in God,
and God in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your healing work, O Lord,
free us, we pray, from doing evil
and lead us to what is right.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A Little Muffin

Elijah is running for his life. He needs a place to hide. Heeding God's direction, he finds a needy widow and her child. He opts to hide with them. Why? Because, sadly, nobody notices them. So, Elijah finds refuge in their cloak of invisibility.

Next, he asks for a small cup of water and some bread. The widow says, "As the Lord, your God, lives, I have nothing baked." She is acknowledging that Elijah's God is not her God, yet she detects he is a religious person. (It takes one to know one.) She describes her dire situation—not as an excuse but as a fact. Then she serves him—not out of her abundance but out of her want. And behold, a miracle happens: the jar of flour and jug of oil do not run dry for an entire year!

But there are other miracles besides the never-ending flour and oil. Elijah heeds God's direction. (How amazing is that?) He and the widow discover that their salvation is intimately bound up with another's need. (Who would have thought?) The widow serves the prophet not by opening a bakery, but by making him a single bran muffin—daily. (The small and the daily are holy.) Elijah, the widow, and her child live unnoticed by society, but not by God. (Wow!)

Whom might God be directing me to notice today and to offer a little muffin?

Sr. Melannie Svoboda

Melannie Svoboda, a Sister of Notre Dame from Chardon, Ohio, writes and gives talks and retreats nationally. Her latest book is Hanging onto Hope. Visit her blog "Sunflower Seeds" at www.melanniesvobodasnd.org.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 119:129-136

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Your decrees are wonderful indeed;
therefore my soul obeys them.
The unfolding of your word gives light,
and understanding to the simple.

I have opened my mouth and I sigh,
for I yearn for your commands.
Turn and have mercy on me,
as is your rule for those who love your name.

Let my steps be guided by your promise;
may evil never rule me.
Redeem me from human oppression,
and I will keep your precepts.

Let your face shine forth on your servant,
and teach me your decrees.
My eyes shed streams of tears,
because of those who have not kept your law.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 4:2-6

Persevere in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving; at the same time, pray for us, too, that God may open a door to us for the word, to speak of the mystery of Christ, for which I am in prison, that I may make it clear,

as I must speak. Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you know how you should respond to each one.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Lover of the poor, you delight in the children of earth and command us to love one another. In faith we pray:

R. Teach us your ways, O God.

Help us to reach out to the homeless, the hungry, and the lonely. **R**.

Animate us to care for the health and well-being of the earth. **R**.

Sensitize us to the needs of young people who lack social support or education. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, stand guard over our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our light. Amen.

Wednesday, June 10

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 86:1-8

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Turn your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
Preserve my soul, for I am faithful;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.

Have mercy on me, O Lord,
for I cry to you all the day long.
Gladden the soul of your servant,
for I lift up my soul to you, O Lord.

O Lord, you are good and forgiving,
full of mercy to all who call to you.
Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer,
and attend to my voice in supplication.

In the day of distress, I will call to you,
and surely you will answer me.
Among the gods there is none like you, O Lord,
nor works to compare with yours.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 45:15, 18-19

Truly with you God is hidden, / the God of Israel, the
savior!

For thus says the LORD, / The creator of the heavens, /
who is God, / The designer and maker of the earth / who

established it, / Not as an empty waste did he create it, / but designing it to be lived in: / I am the LORD, and there is no other. / I have not spoken in secret / from some place in the land of darkness, / I have not said to the descendants of Jacob, / “Look for me in an empty waste.” / I, the LORD, promise justice, / I declare what is right.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Lord, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God our savior, you are our stronghold. In confidence we pray: **R**. O God, hear our prayer.

Open our hearts and minds to the teachings and example of Pope Francis. **R**.

Help us to stop the cycle of domestic violence, bullying, and drug abuse. **R**.

Comfort and encourage those who suffer relationship wounds. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May the God of justice lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, and from hate to love, through Jesus our help. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Servant of God Antoni Gaudí

Architect (1852–1926)

In 1883 Antoni Gaudí, a young architect in Barcelona, was offered the task of designing and building the Church of the Holy Family, a project sponsored by a lay association and relying entirely on individual donations. Gaudí was, in some ways, a surprising choice. Though hailed as a creative genius whose work combined an eclectic range of styles, he was also something of a dandy. Yet he took on the project with almost single-minded dedication. The church became more and more ambitious. Incorporating inlaid ceramics, wrought iron, and original sculpture, it began to grow into an astonishing work of art—a reflection of the artist’s imagination but also, increasingly, a reflection of his growing faith.

As his church began to take shape, Gaudí grew closer to the One he called “the greatest master builder.” He adopted an ascetic life, dressing as a workman, fasting frequently, and attending daily Mass. While also designing many other buildings, Holy Family became his central work. In the last months of his life he slept on a cot in the church. On June 7, 1926, he was struck by a streetcar. Mistaken for a beggar, he was taken to the charity ward of the local hospital, where he died on June 10.

Though work on the Church of the Holy Family continues to this day, it has long been recognized as one of the world’s architectural treasures. In 1999 it was also named as a basilica. Its architect has been proposed as a candidate for canonization.

“Beauty is the image of truth.”

—Antoni Gaudí

Mass

Wednesday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):1-2

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
/ The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I
dread? / When those who do evil draw near, they stumble
and fall.

COLLECT

O God, from whom all good things come,
grant that we, who call on you in our need,
may at your prompting discern what is right,
and by your guidance do it.

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.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

18:20-39

Let it be known this day that you, LORD, are God.

Ahab sent to all the children of Israel and had the prophets assemble on Mount Carmel.

Elijah appealed to all the people and said, "How long will you straddle the issue? If the LORD is God, follow him; if Baal, follow him." The people, however, did not answer him. So Elijah said to the people, "I am the only surviving prophet of the LORD, and there are four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal. Give us two young bulls. Let them choose one, cut it into pieces, and place it on the wood, but start no fire. I shall prepare the other and place it on the wood, but shall start no fire. You shall call on your gods, and I will call on the LORD. The God who answers with fire is God." All the people answered, "Agreed!"

Elijah then said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one young bull and prepare it first, for there are more of you. Call upon your gods, but do not start the fire." Taking the young bull that was turned over to them, they prepared it and called on Baal from morning to noon, saying, "Answer us, Baal!" But there was no sound, and no one answering. And they hopped around the altar they had prepared. When it was noon, Elijah taunted them: "Call louder, for he is a god and may be meditating, or may have retired, or may be on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." They called out louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until blood gushed over them. Noon passed and they remained in a prophetic state until the time for offering sacrifice. But there was not a sound; no one answered, and no one was listening.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." When the people had done so, he repaired the altar of the LORD that had been destroyed. He took twelve stones, for the number of tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the LORD had said, "Your name shall be Israel." He built an altar in honor of the LORD with the stones, and made a trench around the altar large enough for two measures of grain. When he had arranged the wood, he cut up the young bull and laid it on the wood. "Fill four jars with water," he said, "and pour it over the burnt offering and over the wood." "Do it again," he said, and they did it again. "Do it a third time," he said, and they did it a third time. The water flowed around the altar, and the trench was filled with the water.

At the time for offering sacrifice, the prophet Elijah came forward and said, "LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, let it be known this day that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things by your command. Answer me, LORD! Answer me, that this people may know that you, LORD, are God and that you have

brought them back to their senses.” The LORD’s fire came down and consumed the burnt offering, wood, stones, and dust, and it lapped up the water in the trench. Seeing this, all the people fell prostrate and said, “The LORD is God! The LORD is God!”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

16:1b-2ab, 4, 5ab and 8, 11

R. (1b) Keep me safe, O God; you are my hope.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;
I say to the LORD, “My Lord are you.” **R.**

They multiply their sorrows
who court other gods.
Blood libations to them I will not pour out,
nor will I take their names upon my lips. **R.**

O LORD, my allotted portion and cup,
you it is who hold fast my lot.
I set the LORD ever before me;
with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. **R.**

You will show me the path to life,
fullness of joys in your presence,
the delights at your right hand forever. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalms 25:4b, 5a

Teach me your paths, my God,
and guide me in your truth.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:17-19

I have come not to abolish the law, but to fulfill it.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come

not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look kindly upon our service, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer
may be an acceptable oblation to you
and lead us to grow in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 18 (17):3

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; / my
God is my saving strength.

Or:

1 John 4:16

God is love, and whoever abides in love / abides in God,
and God in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your healing work, O Lord,
free us, we pray, from doing evil
and lead us to what is right.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

That Heaven Might Be Open

[Christ says:] Although I was not of Abraham's lineage through a father, nevertheless I was of that lineage through my Mother, although without sin. Because I instituted the law in my divinity, I willed also to suffer the law in my humanity that my enemies might not slander me by saying that I had given precepts that I myself would not fulfill. . . .

Everyone who wills to establish or begin a new way must himself—as the establisher and beginner of that way—walk on it ahead of others. Now, to the ancient People, there was given a carnal way, namely, circumcision, as a sign of obedience and future purgation. In faithful persons who kept the law, it wrought some effect of the future grace and promise before there came that promised truth—namely, I, the Son of God. Because the law was only, as it were, a shadow, it had been determined in eternity that with the coming of truth the ancient way would retire, lacking its effect. Therefore, that the truth might appear, the shadow yield, and an easier way to heaven be shown, I, God and man, born without sin, willed to be baptized out of humility and as an example to others and so that I might open heaven to those who believe. As a sign of this, when I had been baptized, the heavens were opened; the Father's voice was heard; the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove; and I, God's Son, was shown in a true human being in order that all the faithful might know and believe that the Father opens heaven for the faithful who have been baptized.

St. Birgitta of Sweden, *Book of Questions*

Birgitta (Bridget) of Sweden (1303–1373) was a wife and mother, later a nun and founder of the Brigittines.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 42:2-6

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,
so my soul is yearning for you, my God.

My soul is thirsting for God, the living God;
when can I enter and appear before the face of God?

My tears have become my bread,
by day, by night,
as they say to me all the day long,
“Where is your God?”

These things will I remember as I pour out my soul:
for I would go to the place of your wondrous tent,
all the way to the house of God,
amid cries of gladness and thanksgiving,
the throng keeping joyful festival.

Why are you cast down, my soul;
why groan within me?
Hope in God, whom I will praise yet again,
my saving presence and my God.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 4:12-13

Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul

and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart. No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of wisdom, your word is living and effective. With trust we pray: **R7.** God, in your justice, hear our prayer.

Increase our awareness and understanding of Catholic social teaching. **R7.**

Help us to recognize and address prejudice, racism, and tactics of exclusion. **R7.**

Bring an end to practices of abortion and capital punishment. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the peace of God reign in our hearts, now and always. Amen.

Thursday, June 11

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 19:2-7

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

The heavens declare the glory of God,
whose handiwork the firmament proclaims.

Day unto day conveys the message,
and night unto night imparts the knowledge.

No speech, no word, whose voice goes unheeded;
their sound goes forth through all the earth,
their message to the utmost bounds of the world.

There God has placed a tent for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent,
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At one end of the heavens is the rising of the sun;
to its furthest end it runs its course.
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Sirach 39:6, 9-11

If it pleases the Lord Almighty, / he will be filled with the
spirit of understanding; / He will pour forth his words of
wisdom / and in prayer give praise to the Lord.

Many will praise his understanding; / his name can never
be blotted out; / Unfading will be his memory, / through all

generations his name will live; / Peoples will speak of his wisdom, / and the assembly will declare his praise. / While he lives he is one out of a thousand, / and when he dies he leaves a good name.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Barnabas was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of the apostles, you filled Barnabas with faith and your Holy Spirit. In company with him we pray: **R7.**
Guide us by your Spirit, O God.

Instruct all who preach and teach your word of love. **R7.**

Strengthen us to offer support and encouragement to our friends, family, and members of the household of faith. **R7.**

Animate your Church to rouse the weary and care for the vulnerable in life-giving ways. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the prayers of St. Barnabas lead us to true and lasting friendship with God, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Gabrielle Bossis

Mystic (1874–1950)

As a child in France, Gabrielle Bossis enjoyed a special sense of God's presence. She liked to carry on "simple talks" with Jesus, a practice she continued all her life. When she described this practice to a priest, he urged her to become a nun. But she was certain that her vocation, instead, was to live out her dedication to God as a single woman in the world.

She trained as a nurse to serve the poor. But at sixty-two she began writing "moral comedies" for the theater and went on to become famous as a playwright and actor. After her death on June 9, 1950, her journals were published—to the astonishment of friends, who knew nothing of her rich inner life.

Christ's message, as conveyed by Bossis, is the imperative to seek his face not only in other people but in every circumstance and to respond to him joyfully and with love. "You were touched when you read that I was in the Gospels, hidden in the sacrament of the Word. But how much more I am present in the sacrament of human life!"

The God she loved was hidden in her own yearnings, sufferings, and ideals—but always wanting to be discovered. "Hunt for me everywhere! I'll let myself be captured with such joy! And when you have found me, give me to others. There are people I am waiting to reach only through you."

"Don't think that a saint must look saintly in the eyes of humans. . . . Their value is in their hearts."

—Gabrielle Bossis

Mass

St. Barnabas, Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Acts 11:24

Blessed is this holy man, / who was worthy to be
numbered among the Apostles, / for he was a good man, /
filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith.

COLLECT

O God, who decreed that Saint Barnabas,
a man filled with faith and the Holy Spirit,
should be set apart to convert the nations,
grant that the Gospel of Christ,
which he strenuously preached,
may be faithfully proclaimed by word and by deed.
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.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles 11:21b-26; 13:1-3

*Barnabas was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit
and with faith.*

In those days a great number who believed turned to the Lord. The news about them reached the ears of the Church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to go to Antioch. When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced and encouraged them all to remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart, for he was a good man, filled with the Holy Spirit and faith. And a large number of people was added to the Lord. Then he went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the Church and taught a large number of people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called Christians.

Now there were in the Church at Antioch prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Symeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who was a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." Then, completing their fasting and prayer, they laid hands on them and sent them off.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6

R. (see 2b) The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done wondrous deeds;
His right hand has won victory for him,
his holy arm. **R.**

The LORD has made his salvation known:
in the sight of the nations he has revealed his justice.
He has remembered his kindness and his faithfulness
toward the house of Israel. **R.**

All the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation by our God.
Sing joyfully to the LORD, all you lands;
break into song; sing praise. **R.**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and melodious song.
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
sing joyfully before the King, the LORD. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13:34

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:20-26

Whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment.

Jesus said to his disciples: “I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter into the Kingdom of heaven.

“You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *You shall not kill; and whoever kills will be liable to judgment.* But I say to you, whoever is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, and whoever says to his brother, *Raqa*, will be answerable to the Sanhedrin, and whoever says, ‘You fool,’ will be liable to fiery Gehenna. Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar, and there recall that your brother has anything against you, leave your gift there at the altar, go first and be reconciled with your brother, and then come and offer your gift. Settle with your opponent quickly while on the way to court with him. Otherwise your opponent will hand you over to the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the guard, and you will be thrown into prison. Amen, I say to you, you will not be released until you have paid the last penny.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Sanctify with your blessing, we pray, O Lord,
 the offerings presented here,
 so that by your grace they may set us on fire
 with the flame of your love,
 by which Saint Barnabas
 brought the light of the Gospel to the nations.
 Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. John 15:15

I no longer call you slaves, / because a slave does not know what his master is doing. / But I have called you friends, / because I have told you / everything I have heard from my Father.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge of eternal life,
we humbly implore you, Lord,
that what we celebrate in sacramental signs
on the Memorial of the blessed Apostle Barnabas
we may one day behold unveiled.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Barnabas Points the Way

A mensch is a good human being. A Yiddish word with German undertones, “mensch” describes someone of integrity and honor, a real solid human. It is a person you would be glad to have in your life, to take home and meet your family. A person like St. Barnabas.

Our reading from the Acts of the Apostles could easily be translated: “For Barnabas was a mensch, filled with the Holy Spirit.”

So, how does someone become a mensch? St. Barnabas points the way.

A mensch sees all reality as an event of the grace of God. All life is a gift, and every life situation is perceived as a movement of the unfolding of God’s goodness. Neither cynical nor pathetic, a mensch is graceful and moves in beauty.

A mensch is a child of encouragement, which is literally what the name “Barnabas” means. Encouraging others to “remain faithful to the Lord in firmness of heart.” Barnabas did just that. An aspiring mensch does the same: encouraging those of buckling knees and feeble faith, raising up in them the courage of will to stand up for what is just.

We know that Barnabas “strenuously preached.” The key to being a mensch is the strenuous dedication to give flesh to the God of Love, preaching in season and out.

Barnabas was a mensch. He and those he served were called Christians, and we are too. Filled with the Holy Spirit, we point the way to Christ.

Fr. Richard Fragomeni

Richard Fragomeni is a presbyter of the Diocese of Albany, New York. He is professor of liturgy and preaching at Catholic Theological Union. He also serves as rector of The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, Chicago.



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 34:2-8, 12

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

I will bless the LORD at all times;
praise is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me;
together let us praise God's name.
I sought the LORD, who answered me,
and set me free from all my terrors.

Look towards the Lord and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
When the lowly call out, the LORD hears,
and rescues them from all their distress.

The angel of the LORD is encamped
around those who are reverent, to rescue them.

Come, children, and hear me,
that I may teach you the fear of the LORD.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

James 1:19-22

Know this . . . everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of a man does

not accomplish the righteousness of God. Therefore, put away all filth and evil excess and humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Forgive one another as you have been forgiven.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Ever-living God, you renew life in your Church by the faith and example of the apostles. We humbly pray:

R. Set our hearts on you, O God.

Teach us to love our neighbor as you love us. **R.**

Inspire us to make choices for the well-being of the earth and future generations. **R.**

Help us to keep death daily before us and live in the peace of Christ. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us in the love of Christ and lead us to share that love with one another, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday, June 12

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 12

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Save me, O LORD, for the holy ones are no more;
the faithful have vanished from the human race.

They babble vanities, one to another,
with cunning lips, with divided heart.

May the LORD destroy all cunning lips,
the tongue that utters boastful words,
Those who say, “We prevail with our tongue;
our lips are our own, who can command us?”

“For the poor who are oppressed and the needy who sigh,
now will I arise,” says the LORD;

“I will grant them the salvation for which they long.”
The words of the LORD are words without alloy,
silver from the furnace, seven times refined.

It is you, O LORD, who will keep us safe,
and protect us forever from this generation.
The wicked prowl on every side,
while baseness is exalted by the human race.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 33:18-23

Then Moses said, “Please let me see your glory!” The LORD answered: I will make all my goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim my name, “LORD,” before you;

I who show favor to whom I will, I who grant mercy to whom I will. But you cannot see my face, for no one can see me and live. Here, continued the LORD, is a place near me where you shall station yourself on the rock. When my glory passes I will set you in the cleft of the rock and will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand, so that you may see my back; but my face may not be seen.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The Lord comes in deep silence.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Compassionate God, you offer us every grace and blessing that we need. In hope we pray: **R7.** God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Deepen the gifts of prayer and charity in your Church. **R7.**

Prosper the efforts of peacemakers, and unite leaders of nations in efforts to secure peace and justice for the life of the world. **R7.**

Give encouragement, patience, and love to parents, grandparents, and guardians of young children. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God lead us to know the joy of Christ's peace and guide us in peace, through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Medgar Evers

Civil Rights Martyr (1925–1963)

Medgar Evers was born in Decatur, Mississippi. Drafted into the army during World War II, he saw action in France and Germany. Returning to Mississippi after the war, he studied at a historically black college, married his sweetheart, and raised three children. But like many black veterans, Evers found it intolerable to return to segregation and the daily experience of humiliation and oppression. He became a full-time fieldworker for the NAACP—the premier civil rights organization, an object of fear and hatred by white supremacists throughout the South.

After organizing boycotts of segregated bathrooms and working to register African Americans to vote, Evers began to receive constant death threats. Though he acknowledged the risks, he refused to compromise. As his wife noted, “Medgar was a man who never wanted to be in the limelight. He saw a job that needed to be done and he answered the call and the fight for freedom, dignity, and justice, not just for his people but all people.”

On June 12, 1963, shortly after President Kennedy delivered a historic speech on civil rights, Medgar Evers was shot in the back in the driveway of his home. He died in front of his wife and children.

“As long as God gives me strength to work and try to make things real for my children, I’m going to work for it—even if it means making the ultimate sacrifice.”

—Medgar Evers

Mass

Friday of the Tenth Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):1-2

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
/ The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I
dread? / When those who do evil draw near, they stumble
and fall.

COLLECT

O God, from whom all good things come,
grant that we, who call on you in our need,
may at your prompting discern what is right,
and by your guidance do it.
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.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

19:9a, 11-16

Stand on the mountain before the LORD.

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave, where he took shelter. But the word of the LORD came to him, “Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by.” A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake there was fire—but the LORD was not in the fire. After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave. A voice said to him, “Elijah, why are you here?” He replied, “I have been most zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts.

But the children of Israel have forsaken your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to the sword. I alone am left, and they seek to take my life.” The LORD said to him, “Go, take the road back to the desert near Damascus. When you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king of Aram. Then you shall anoint Jehu, son of Nimshi, as king of Israel, and Elisha, son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah, as prophet to succeed you.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

27:7-8a, 8b-9abc, 13-14

R. (8b) I long to see your face, O Lord.

Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;

have pity on me, and answer me.

Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks. **R.**

Your presence, O LORD, I seek.

Hide not your face from me;

do not in anger repel your servant.

You are my helper: cast me not off. **R.**

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD

in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;

be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Philippians 2:15d, 16a

Shine like lights on the world,

as you hold on to the word of life.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:27-32

Everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

Jesus said to his disciples: “You have heard that it was said, *You shall not commit adultery*. But I say to you, everyone who looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body go into Gehenna.

“It was also said, *Whoever divorces his wife must give her a bill of divorce*. But I say to you, whoever divorces his wife (unless the marriage is unlawful) causes her to commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look kindly upon our service, O Lord, we pray,
that what we offer
may be an acceptable oblation to you
and lead us to grow in charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 18 (17):3

The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; / my
God is my saving strength.

Or:

1 John 4:16

God is love, and whoever abides in love / abides in God,
and God in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May your healing work, O Lord,
free us, we pray, from doing evil
and lead us to what is right.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

In the Pause

We live in a bustling world. There is the audible noise of people and machines. There is also the white noise of email, texts, social media, and other distractions that permeate our days.

As a society, we seem to suffer from silence deficit disorder. But observing silence is essential to deepening the inner life. Just as Elijah perceives the voice of God in “a tiny whispering sound,” God often comes to us in silence. St. Benedict in his *Rule* writes: “There are times when even good words are to be left unsaid *out of esteem for silence*.”

A few years ago, a young man named Greg Hindy embarked on a silent pilgrimage from New Hampshire to California. He wrote notes when he needed to communicate. He explained, “To gain perspective on your life, you have to step back, and step back again.”

Few of us can accomplish what Hindy did. But there are ways we can practice esteem for silence within our busy, talky days. I try to pause periodically and block out the noise around me. Sometimes I slip away to an empty room. When

it's impossible to escape the company of others, I go to a place of solitude in my imagination. It is my “magic spot,” swept clean of any daily concerns.

When we observe silence, we allow the soul to hear the soft voice of an inner call. We awaken to our own interior rhythms. We listen more deeply and are better able to perceive the needs of those around us.

I like to think of silence as the pause between thought and action—the element that gives gravitas to the words we do speak. Silence not only opens us to rediscovering the world around us, it allows us to also rediscover our inner world and, ultimately, God.

Judith Valente

*Judith Valente is a journalist, poet, retreat guide, and author most recently of *How to Live: What the Rule of St. Benedict Teaches Us About Happiness, Meaning, and Community*. Visit her at www.judithvalente.com.*



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 37:1-6, 8-9

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not envy those who do evil,
for they wither quickly like grass
and fade like the green of the fields.

Trust in the LORD and do good;
then you will dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
Find your delight in the LORD,
who grants your heart's desire.

Commit your way to the LORD;
if you trust, then God will act,
and make your righteousness shine like the light,
your justice like the noonday sun.

Calm your anger and forget your rage;
do not fret, it only leads to evil.
For those who do evil shall perish.
But those who hope in the LORD,
they shall inherit the land.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:29-33

No one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man shall leave [his] father and [his] mother / and be joined to his wife, / and the two shall become one flesh.” / This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

May the love of Christ enrich our families and friends.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of bountiful love, you are always with us. Open our eyes to your presence, and hear us as we pray: **R.** O God, hear us.

Help us to care for the young and the elderly, and renew our hearts in joy for the Gospel. **R.**

Inspire efforts to use social media for evangelization and faith-building. **R.**

Prosper efforts to provide aid and support to military men and women, veterans, and their families. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May God put a hymn of praise in our hearts and a song of joy on our lips, through Jesus our saving help. Amen.

Saturday, June 13

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 103:1-2, 11-14, 17-18

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, the holy name of God.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all God's benefits.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong the mercy for those who fear God.
As far as the east is from the west,
so far from us does God remove our transgressions.

As a father has compassion on his children,
divine compassion is on those who fear the LORD,
who knows of what we are made,
who remembers that we are dust.

But the love of the LORD is everlasting
upon those who revere godly ways,
upon children's children divine righteousness
for those who keep the covenant,
and remember to fulfill its commands.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:7-8a, 9-10

The LORD said: I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry against their taskmasters, so I know well what they are suffering. There-

fore I have come down to rescue them from the power of the Egyptians and lead them up from that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey. Now indeed the outcry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, go! I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

God calls us to serve his people.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of the poor, you enriched St. Anthony with a spirit of poverty and love. In company with him we pray:

R. Guide us along the everlasting way, O God.

Heal divisions and misunderstanding in families, and unite Christians as one body in Christ. **R.**

Favor and bless the work of volunteers in homeless shelters, food kitchens, and charitable organizations. **R.**

Help us make environmentally sustainable choices. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen our faith and lead us all to unity in Christ so that we may proclaim the Gospel by our living. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Anthony of Padua

Doctor of the Church (1195–1231)

St. Anthony, who was born in Lisbon, first entered religious life as an Augustinian canon in Coimbra. There one day he met a group of visiting Franciscans on their way to Morocco. He was greatly impressed by these courageous missionaries, the more so when news came of their subsequent martyrdom. At once, he was inspired to join the Franciscans. In 1221 he attended a great Franciscan gathering, the last held in the lifetime of St. Francis. Afterward he received a modest assignment to a small hospice for lay brothers at Monte Paolo.

But soon his star would shine. When asked to preach at an important occasion, he astonished his audience with the unexpected elegance, conviction, and profound learning of his sermon. Word quickly spread, and Anthony received a letter from Francis himself authorizing him to preach and to teach theology to the friars.

Eventually he was sent on a preaching mission that covered all of Italy. Thousands flocked to hear his open-air sermons, and his visits had the impact of a spiritual revival. He attacked the tyranny of the powerful, exhorting his listeners to compassion and charity toward the poor.

Anthony died on June 13, 1231, at the age of thirty-six. He was buried in Padua, where he had spent his last years, and his canonization followed only a year later. In 1946 Pope Pius XII declared him a Doctor of the Church. He is often invoked for his help in finding lost objects.

“Attribute to God every good that you have received. If you take credit for something that does not belong to you, you will be guilty of theft.”

—St. Anthony of Padua

Mass

St. Anthony of Padua, Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 132 (131):9

Your priests, O Lord, shall be clothed with justice; / your holy ones shall ring out their joy.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
who gave Saint Anthony of Padua to your people
as an outstanding preacher
and an intercessor in their need,
grant that, with his assistance,
as we follow the teachings of the Christian life,
we may know your help in every trial.
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.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

19:19-21

Then Elisha left and followed Elijah.

Elijah set out, and came upon Elisha, son of Shaphat, as he was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen; he was following the twelfth. Elijah went over to him and threw his cloak over him. Elisha left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Please, let me kiss my father and mother goodbye, and I will follow you." Elijah answered, "Go back! Have I done anything to you?" Elisha left him and, taking the yoke of oxen, slaughtered them; he used the plowing equipment for fuel to boil their flesh, and gave it to his people to eat. Then he left and followed Elijah as his attendant.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

16:1b-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10

R. (see 5a) You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Keep me, O God, for in you I take refuge;

I say to the LORD, "My Lord are you."

O LORD, my allotted portion and my cup,

you it is who hold fast my lot. **R.**

I bless the LORD who counsels me;

even in the night my heart exhorts me.

I set the LORD ever before me;

with him at my right hand I shall not be disturbed. **R.**

Therefore my heart is glad and my soul rejoices,

my body, too, abides in confidence;

Because you will not abandon my soul to the nether world,

nor will you suffer your faithful one to undergo

corruption. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

119:36a, 29b

Incline my heart, O God, to your decrees;

and favor me with your law.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:33-37

I say to you, do not swear at all.

Jesus said to his disciples: "You have heard that it was said to your ancestors, *Do not take a false oath, but make good to the Lord all that you vow.* But I say to you, do not swear at all; not by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is his footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Do not swear by your head, for you cannot make a single hair white or black. Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the Evil One."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, we pray,
the offerings placed on your altar
in commemoration of blessed Saint Anthony of Padua,
so that, as you brought him glory,
you may, through these sacred mysteries,
grant to us your pardon.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Matthew 24:46-47

Blessed is the servant whom the Lord finds watching /
when he comes. Amen, I say to you: / He will put that
servant in charge of all his property.

Or:

Luke 12:42

This is the steward, faithful and prudent, / whom the
Lord set over his household, / to give them their
allowance of food at the proper time.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May partaking at the heavenly table, almighty God,
confirm and increase strength from on high
in all who celebrate the feast day of blessed Anthony
of Padua,
that we may preserve in integrity the gift of faith
and walk in the path of salvation you trace for us.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A Habit of Honesty

Though this section of the Sermon on the Mount is very brief and given in the context of taking oaths or swearing by something or someone, it still touches matters basic to human life and relationships. Honesty and straightforward speech are not to be taken for granted in our society. In our day and our speech, oath-taking has become for the most part simply a vehement way of speaking. When we say, “By God” or “By all that’s sacred” we’re usually just repeating some bit of jargon. But originally an oath was taken to bolster one’s statement and to assure the hearers that you were speaking in utmost seriousness. About the only serious oath we hear in our world is “So help me God” in certain civil contexts.

We may say “I swear” when a friend asks us to verify or confirm that Jerry did indeed quit his job at Seagate. So, oaths have a relatively small place in our society; we try, instead, by all kinds of legal stratagems to assure that if someone is not telling the truth, the consequences will be felt. But fundamentally what Jesus is asking of his disciples, therefore of us, is that we be of such transparent and honest character that others know that when we say “Yes” we mean “Yes” and similarly with “No” (see Matt 5:37). Honesty in thought and speech, simplicity, directness, and straightforwardness are virtues too often taken for granted when, in fact, they may be missing from much of our conversation. When you think of it, a habit of honesty in speech is probably closely related to a lack of selfishness. We are simple and honest because protecting ourselves is not our primary concern.

Fr. Don Talafous, *Homilies for Weekdays, Year II*

Don Talafous, OSB, is a member of St. John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, and alumni chaplain for St. John’s University. His Daily Reflection can be found at www.saintjohnsabbey.org/reflection.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 15

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

LORD, who may abide in your tent,
and dwell on your holy mountain?

Whoever walks without fault;
who does what is righteous,
and speaks with heartfelt truth.

Whoever does not slander with the tongue;
who does no wrong to a neighbor,
who casts no slur on a friend,
who looks with scorn on the wicked,
but honors those who fear the LORD.

Whoever keeps an oath, whatever the cost,
who lends no money at interest,
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.

Such a one shall never be shaken.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 13:5-9

Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless, of course, you fail the test. I hope you will discover that we have not failed. But we pray to God that you may not do evil, not that we may appear to have passed the test but that you may do what is right, even though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the

truth, but only for the truth. For we rejoice when we are weak but you are strong. What we pray for is your improvement.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Let your "Yes" mean "Yes" and your "No" mean "No."

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of unity and peace, you favor us with your grace and give us courage to pray: **R7.** God, in your love, hear our prayer.

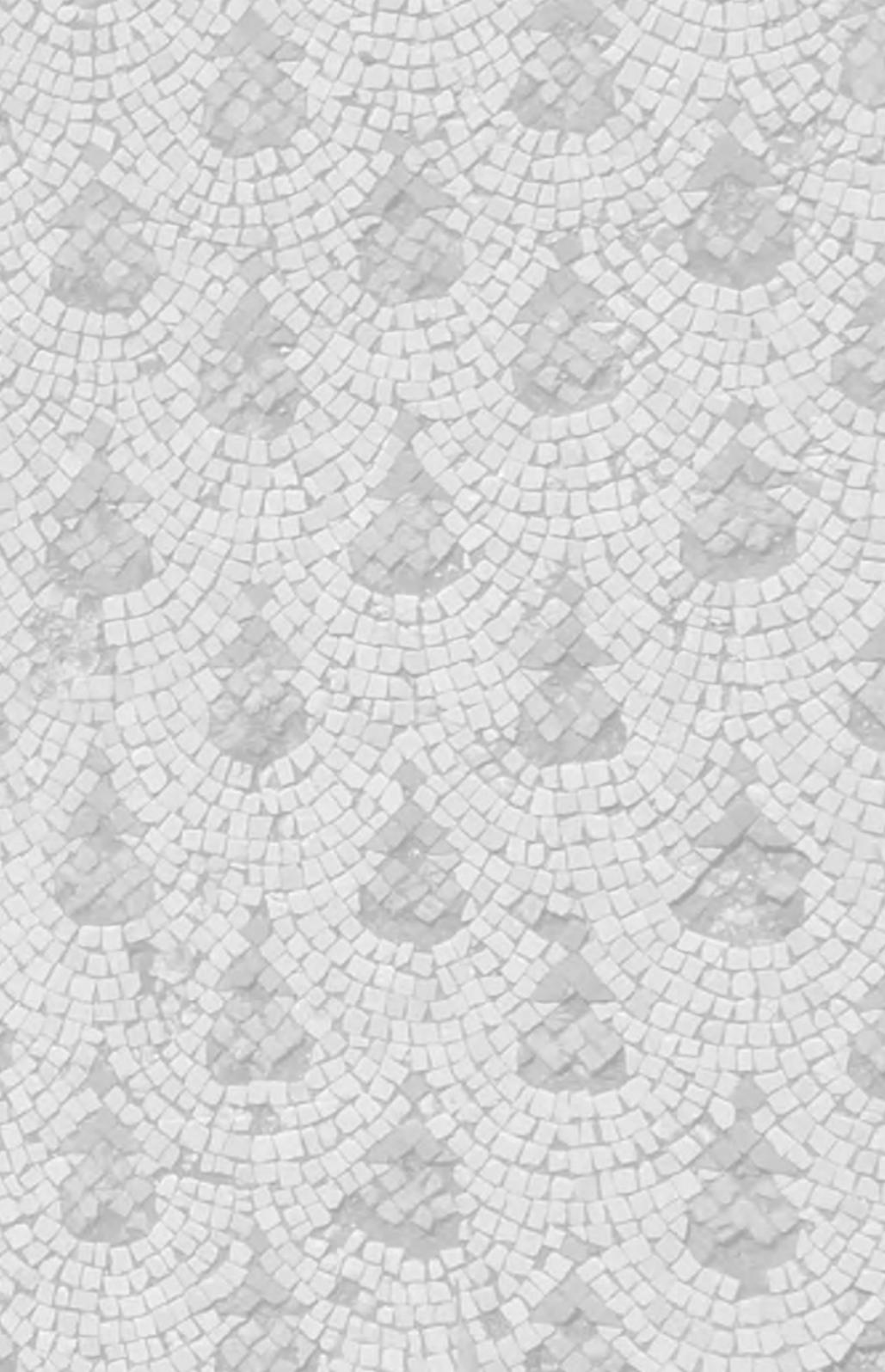
Nurture wisdom, compassion, and peace in those who minister to others through spiritual direction, hospice, or funeral planning. **R7.**

Grant joy to those who are preparing to marry, and enrich their lives with every gift of your Spirit. **R7.**

Give courage, discernment, and peace to those who seek to know their vocation. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God make us worthy of the call we have received and bring to fulfillment every effort we make in faith, that Christ may be glorified in everything we say and do.
Amen.





NOVI
ET
ÆTERNI TESTAMENTI

Sunday, June 14

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 148:1-4, 11-13

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Alleluia!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise the Lord in the heights.
Praise the Lord, all his angels;
praise the Lord, all his hosts.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
praise the Lord, all shining stars.
Praise the Lord, highest heavens,
and the waters above the heavens.

Rulers of the earth and all peoples,
sovereigns and all judges of the earth,
young men and maidens as well,
the old and the young together.

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for God's name alone is exalted,
whose splendor rises above heaven and earth.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:1-3

All you who are thirsty, / come to the water! / You who
have no money, / come, buy grain and eat; / Come,

buy grain without money, / wine and milk without cost! / Why spend your money for what is not bread; / your wages for what does not satisfy? / Only listen to me, and you shall eat well, / you shall delight in rich fare. / Pay attention and come to me; / listen, that you may have life. / I will make with you an everlasting covenant, / the steadfast loyalty promised to David.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, by your great mercy you feed us with the Bread of Life and sustain us with the Cup of Salvation. In gratitude we pray: **R7.** Fill us with your saving love, O God.

Nourish our hearts and minds by your living word and the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. **R7.**

Strengthen your Church to be a place of mutual communion and hospitable love. **R7.**

Break through patterns of living that sustain injustice, exclusivity, and oppression. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with listening hearts and minds, that we may share fully in the life poured out for us through Jesus, our true shepherd. Amen.

Mass

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 81 (80):17

He fed them with the finest wheat / and satisfied them
with honey from the rock.

GLORIA (p. 330)

COLLECT

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

He gave you a food unknown to you and your fathers.

Moses said to the people: “Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.

“Do not forget the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery; who guided you

through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

R. (12) Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. *or:* **R.** Alleluia.

Glorify the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion.

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates;
he has blessed your children within you. **R.**

He has granted peace in your borders;
with the best of wheat he fills you.

He sends forth his command to the earth;
swiftly runs his word! **R.**

He has proclaimed his word to Jacob,
his statutes and his ordinances to Israel.
He has not done thus for any other nation;
his ordinances he has not made known to them.

Alleluia. **R.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians

10:16-17

The bread is one, and we, though many, are one body.

Brothers and sisters: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

The word of the Lord.

SEQUENCE

Lauda Sion

The sequence *Laud, O Zion (Lauda Sion)*, or the shorter form beginning with the verse *Lo! the angel's food is given*, may be sung optionally before the Alleluia.

Laud, O Zion, your salvation,
Laud with hymns of exultation,
Christ, your king and shepherd true:

Bring him all the praise you know,
He is more than you bestow.
Never can you reach his due.

Special theme for glad thanksgiving
Is the quick'ning and the living
Bread today before you set:

From his hands of old partaken,
As we know, by faith unshaken,
Where the Twelve at supper met.

Full and clear ring out your chanting,
Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting,
From your heart let praises burst:

For today the feast is holden,
When the institution olden
Of that supper was rehearsed.

Here the new law's new oblation,
By the new king's revelation,
Ends the form of ancient rite:

Now the new the old effaces,
Truth away the shadow chases,
Light dispels the gloom of night.

What he did at supper seated,
Christ ordained to be repeated,
His memorial ne'er to cease:

And his rule for guidance taking,
Bread and wine we hallow, making
Thus our sacrifice of peace.

This the truth each Christian learns,
Bread into his flesh he turns,
To his precious blood the wine:

Sight has fail'd, nor thought conceives,
But a dauntless faith believes,
Resting on a pow'r divine.

Here beneath these signs are hidden
Priceless things to sense forbidden;
Signs, not things are all we see:

Blood is poured and flesh is broken,
Yet in either wondrous token
Christ entire we know to be.

Whoso of this food partakes,
Does not rend the Lord nor breaks;
Christ is whole to all that taste:

Thousands are, as one, receivers,
One, as thousands of believers,
Eats of him who cannot waste.

Bad and good the feast are sharing,
Of what divers dooms preparing,
Endless death, or endless life.

Life to these, to those damnation,
See how like participation
Is with unlike issues rife.

When the sacrament is broken,
Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken,
That each sever'd outward token
doth the very whole contain.

Nought the precious gift divides,

Breaking but the sign betides
 Jesus still the same abides,
 still unbroken does remain.

The shorter form of the sequence begins here.

Lo! the angel's food is given
 To the pilgrim who has striven;
 See the children's bread from heaven,
 which on dogs may not be spent.

Truth the ancient types fulfilling,
 Isaac bound, a victim willing,
 Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,
 manna to the fathers sent.

Very bread, good shepherd, tend us,
 Jesu, of your love befriend us,
 You refresh us, you defend us,
 Your eternal goodness send us
 In the land of life to see.

You who all things can and know,
 Who on earth such food bestow,
 Grant us with your saints, though lowest,
 Where the heav'nly feast you show,
 Fellow heirs and guests to be. Amen. Alleluia.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:51

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says
 the Lord;
 whoever eats this bread will live forever.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 6:51-58

My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 331)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Grant your Church, O Lord, we pray,
the gifts of unity and peace,
whose signs are to be seen in mystery
in the offerings we here present.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

John 6:57

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood / remains in
me and I in him, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we pray,
that we may delight for all eternity
in that share in your divine life,
which is foreshadowed in the present age
by our reception of your precious Body and Blood.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Reflection

A Greater Hunger

[It] is not only [Christ] who communicates his Body and his Blood to us, who lives now in us, but we live in him. This means not only that he has power over us and that we are made available to him from now on through his life in us but also that he grants us a place within his own life, that he holds us in himself. Not only in order to help us when we need this, not only in order to be available to us when this is urgent, but in order himself to make use of us, when *he* needs this and yearns for it. Not only does the Lord obligate himself in our regard: he obligates us, too, in his own regard. . . . Our dwelling in him and his dwelling in us penetrates everything, the customary everyday life, joy and suffering, anxiety and abandonment. This will perhaps be more clearly visible to us in difficult moments; for our relationship to the Lord is something of which we are less clearly conscious when everything goes well.

The Lord speaks of “remaining.” But this remaining does not denote standing still or even merely an abiding condition. . . . To remain means: to remain in movement, to hunger and to be fed, to thirst and to be given drink, to feel all the needs of the spirit and to experience their satisfaction, and all of this in a continuously intensifying sense, so that each satisfaction awakens a greater hunger, because it broadens out the soul, and love becomes ever more urgent and more burning.

Adrienne von Speyr, *The Discourses of Controversy*

Adrienne von Speyr (1902–1967) was a Swiss convert, mystic, medical doctor, and author of numerous books on spirituality and theology. She entered the Catholic Church under the direction of Hans Urs von Balthasar.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 116:10-19

I trusted, even when I said,
“I am sorely afflicted,”
and when I said in my alarm,
“All people are untruthful.”

How can I repay the LORD
for all the goodness shown to me?
The cup of salvation I will raise;
I will call on the name of the LORD.

My vows to the LORD I will fulfill
before all the people.
How precious in the eyes of the LORD
is the death of God’s faithful.

Your servant, LORD, your servant am I,
you have loosened my bonds.
I will offer you a thanksgiving sacrifice;
I will call on the name of the LORD.

My vows to the LORD I will fulfill
before all the people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Alleluia!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 26-27

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.

If [one] part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.

Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

We, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Creating God, in Jesus you bring us into communion with one another. Awed by your great love we pray:

R. In your goodness refresh us, O God.

Heal your Church of any division, discrimination, or hypocrisy. **R.**

Help us to lovingly accept our brokenness and the brokenness of others. **R.**

Inspire Christians to greater appreciation and reception of the Eucharist. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May God shepherd us in love, protect us from all evil, and bring us at last to share at the eternal banquet table of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

June 14–20

Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

Within the Word

Above the Fray: Naboth and His Vineyard

The ancient story of Naboth's vineyard is ever new (1 Kings 21). The tale issues a timeless warning about the dangers of political power gone awry and the resulting poison that can spread throughout all of society. The villain in the narrative is King Ahab of Israel. The hero is Naboth, a commoner who tries—unsuccessfully—to protect his ancestral inheritance from the king. At the heart of the story lies a paradox: the king is supposed to uphold God's laws regarding a person's perpetual rights to the land of his/her ancestors (note: the land technically belongs to God but is placed under the care of a particular family line). But King Ahab not only fails to protect, he will do anything to take Naboth's land for himself.

And then there's Jezebel, a foreign woman from the north (modern Lebanon), wife of King Ahab and worshiper of the god Baal. There's no mistaking how the biblical writers feel about Jezebel! Her name translates to something like "un-exalted" (an intentional alteration of her real name, which likely meant "Baal exalts"). With her influence, Ahab turns from the God of Israel to worship Baal, and he allows Jezebel to persecute God's prophets (1 Kgs 18:4). Jezebel becomes a rival to the prophet Elijah, who serves as the ancient form of checks-and-balances to Israel's government.

In the story, Ahab requests Naboth's vineyard in exchange for better land or money. Naboth responds correctly that God "forbids" that he give away his ancestral inheritance (1 Kgs 21:3). Jezebel eventually finds her husband sulking at home. With his consent, she hatches a plan to get the vineyard; in front of his town's local leadership, she has Naboth falsely

accused of cursing God and king (ironic, considering Jezebel and Ahab's own questionable fidelity to God). Political corruption therefore oozes down through local politics and society. Naboth loses his reputation and is stoned to death, a truly dishonorable death, and Ahab takes the vineyard.

Was Jezebel really so bad? Well, likely not. She is a subplot, a foil for the real storyline about the corruption of Israel's leadership. It is Ahab's job, not hers, to protect Israel's laws and land rights. Elsewhere, those who come to Israel from Lebanon are depicted as wise, skilled in trade and craftsmanship. They even build the Jerusalem Temple (1 Kgs 7:13-45). Yet here, Jezebel is "Evil." Given the Bible's denigration of her, we'll never know her true character. Eventually, she is devoured by dogs in a field, her corpse left out to rot (2 Kgs 9:33-36).

Though quite different texts, 1 Kings 21 communicates provocatively with Monday and Tuesday's readings from the Gospel of Matthew (5:38-48). In this portion of his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus speaks of offering no resistance to evil, loving one's enemies, and giving to those who ask. Is one supposed to love Jezebel, then? And Ahab? Insofar as giving is concerned, Naboth refuses to give his metaphorical "cloak" (the vineyard) to Ahab (see Matt 5:40). Of course, according to the law, it really isn't Naboth's to give.

Underlying both Matthew and 1 Kings is a reminder about integrity at all costs. Things like greed, jealousy, and dishonesty are slippery, poisonous slopes. Better to stay above the fray. In 1 Kings, the one who does so is Naboth. And he is the one forever inscribed in the Bible as the righteous one, the one who acts with honor.

—Mahri Leonard-Fleckman

Mahri Leonard-Fleckman is an assistant professor of Hebrew Bible in the Religious Studies Department at College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. She is author of Ponder, a contemplative Bible study (forthcoming, August 2020).

Monday, June 15

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 66:8-9, 15-20

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

O peoples, bless our God;
let our voice of praise resound,
to the God who gave life to our souls
and kept our feet from stumbling.

I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings
with the smoke of sacrificial rams.
I will offer bullocks and goats.

Come and hear, all who fear God;
I will tell what God has done for my soul.
To the Lord I cried aloud,
with exaltation ready on my tongue.

Had I cherished evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have listened.
But truly God has listened,
and has heeded the voice of my prayer.
Blest be God, who did not reject my prayer,
nor withhold from me faithful love.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 22:24-26

If you lend money to my people, the poor among you,
you must not be like a money lender; you must not de-

mand interest from them. If you take your neighbor's cloak as a pledge, you shall return it to him before sunset; for this is his only covering; it is the cloak for his body. What will he sleep in? If he cries out to me, I will listen; for I am compassionate.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Do not turn your back on the one who wants to borrow.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of salvation, you shower blessings upon your people. Grateful for your love, we pray: **R7**. Good God, hear us.

Call young people to temporal and spiritual service in impoverished communities. **R7**.

Inspire detectives and law enforcement personnel to uncover deceit and advance justice. **R7**.

Rescue victims of human trafficking and torture, and prosper efforts to stop these travesties. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen our faith and lead us all to unity in Christ so that we may proclaim the Gospel by our living. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Edburga of Winchester

Nun (ca. 920–960)

This Anglo-Saxon princess, the granddaughter of King Alfred, was the daughter of Edward, king of Wessex and his third wife, Eadgifu. When she was only three her father held out for her a pile of jewels in one hand, and in the other a chalice and a book of the Gospels—indicating two paths in life. When Edburga immediately chose the holy objects her vocation was decided. Immediately, she was given over to the abbey of Nunnaminster, which was founded by her grandmother in Winchester.

According to her biographer, she would sometimes “rise during the night while the other nuns were sleeping and would silently remove their sandals, clean them, and replace them beside their beds.” This good deed earned her no credit. In fact, her abbess felt it was unseemly for a child of noble birth “to bow her head to such humble service,” and she complained to Edburga’s father. The king merely smiled and expressed his approval.

Edburga later pleaded with her father to endow the abbey, which struggled to survive on alms. When her words failed, her singing had the desired effect, and he endowed the abbey with a rich estate. Edburga died in 960 around the age of forty. Describing the sadness over her passing, her biographer wrote, “The daughters of Zion wept for the daughter of Judah.”

“There are some, established in the wilderness, who . . . are prevented neither by the pains of hunger nor by thirst from divine contemplation. . . . But the weaker multitude and the inferior sex are not endowed with that fortitude: for them it is impossible to live without bodily sustenance.”

—St. Edburga’s plea to her father to endow her abbey

Mass

Monday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):7, 9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. / Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Savior!

COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas,
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.
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.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

21:1-16

Naboth has been stoned to death.

Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard in Jezreel next to the palace of Ahab, king of Samaria. Ahab said to Naboth, “Give me your vineyard to be my vegetable garden, since it is close by, next to my house. I will give you a better vineyard in exchange, or, if you prefer, I will give you its value in money.” Naboth answered him, “The LORD forbid that I should give you my ancestral heritage.” Ahab went home disturbed and angry at the answer Naboth the Jezreelite had made to him: “I will not give you my ancestral heritage.” Lying down on his bed, he turned away from food and would not eat.

His wife Jezebel came to him and said to him, “Why are you so angry that you will not eat?” He answered her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Sell

me your vineyard, or, if you prefer, I will give you a vineyard in exchange.’ But he refused to let me have his vineyard.” His wife Jezebel said to him, “A fine ruler over Israel you are indeed! Get up. Eat and be cheerful. I will obtain the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite for you.”

So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and, having sealed them with his seal, sent them to the elders and to the nobles who lived in the same city with Naboth. This is what she wrote in the letters: “Proclaim a fast and set Naboth at the head of the people. Next, get two scoundrels to face him and accuse him of having cursed God and king. Then take him out and stone him to death.” His fellow citizens—the elders and nobles who dwelt in his city— did as Jezebel had ordered them in writing, through the letters she had sent them. They proclaimed a fast and placed Naboth at the head of the people. Two scoundrels came in and confronted him with the accusation, “Naboth has cursed God and king.” And they led him out of the city and stoned him to death. Then they sent the information to Jezebel that Naboth had been stoned to death.

When Jezebel learned that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, “Go on, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you, because Naboth is not alive, but dead.” On hearing that Naboth was dead, Ahab started off on his way down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it. The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7

R⁷. (2b) Lord, listen to my groaning.

Hearken to my words, O LORD,
attend to my sighing.

Heed my call for help,
my king and my God! **R⁷.**

At dawn I bring my plea expectantly before you.
For you, O God, delight not in wickedness;
no evil man remains with you;
the arrogant may not stand in your sight. **R7.**

You hate all evildoers.
You destroy all who speak falsehood;
The bloodthirsty and the deceitful
the LORD abhors. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 119:105

A lamp to my feet is your word,
a light to my path.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:38-42

But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil.

Jesus said to his disciples: “You have heard that it was said, *An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.* But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other one to him as well. If anyone wants to go to law with you over your tunic, hand him your cloak as well. Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him for two miles. Give to the one who asks of you, and do not turn your back on one who wants to borrow.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the twofold needs of human nature,
nourishing us with food
and renewing us with your Sacrament,
grant, we pray,
that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 27 (26):4

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: /
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Or:

John 17:11

Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,
/ that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord,
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,
so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

God of Vineyard and Vegetable Garden

“You Jezebel!”—a terrible insult—probably has lost its bite in an age of biblical illiteracy. Reconnecting with her evil shocks like an acid bath. Ruthlessly, without flickering an eyelash, she connives the killing of an innocent man.

The story reminds me of six grandchildren playing hide-n-seek. Those under four didn't quite get the concept: from within a closet, a small voice pleaded, "Find me!" Does God ask that too, as we read this horror tale? Where IS God in this mess?

Naboth must've known that refusing King Ahab's offer wouldn't be rewarded. Maybe God sat with him in his vineyard, just now in soft June twilight, savoring tender green leaves and tiny buds, suspecting this view might be the last. Perhaps God's heart broke too, over the wreckage of family heritage and slaughter of the innocent.

Whatever we cherish, even a small plot in the community garden with two tomato plants, makes us vulnerable. We can't wear Jezebel's reptilian skin; we care too much. Perhaps God uses that hole in our armor to teach us respect for another's treasure—whether an opinion or an object we can't dismiss so easily.

Jesus' openhearted "give to the one who asks of you" got him in trouble too. He told the story of a vineyard owner, trying to collect produce from tenants, sending slaves who were beaten or killed. Finally, he sent his beloved son, thinking "surely they will respect" him (Mark 12:1-12). Rich irony. *There God is: in Naboth, in Jesus, in all butchered innocents.*

----- Kathy Coffey

Kathy Coffey is an award-winning writer, mother of four, and speaker who gives workshops and retreats nationally and internationally. Her most recent book is When the Saints Came Marching In. For more information, see her website: kathyjcoffey.com.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 31:10-11, 15-18

Have mercy on me, O LORD,
for I am in distress.
My eyes are wasted away with grief,
as are my soul and my body.

For my life is spent with sorrow,
and my years with sighs.
Affliction has broken down my strength,
and my bones waste away.

But as for me, I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my God.
There in your hands is my lot;
from the hands of my enemies deliver me,
and from those who pursue me.

“Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your faithful love.
Let me not be put to shame, O LORD,
for I call on you;
Let the wicked be shamed!
Let them be silenced in Sheol!”

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

James 2:5-8

Listen, my beloved . . . Did not God choose those who
are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the

kingdom that he promised to those who love him? But you dishonored the poor person. Are not the rich oppressing you? And do they themselves not haul you off to court? Is it not they who blaspheme the noble name that was invoked over you? However, if you fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you are doing well.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Give to the one who asks of you.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Compassionate God, you never forsake those who call upon you for help. Graciously hear us as we pray: **R7.** God our savior, act now.

Grant safety to Christians and Muslims who are suffering from instability in Arab nations. **R7.**

Stop the cycle of abuse in the Church and society. **R7.**

Infuse leaders and citizens with courage to speak truth to power. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the memory of our deceased loved ones strengthen our life and love in Jesus the Risen Lord, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Tuesday, June 16

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 33:8-12, 20-22

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Let all the earth fear the LORD,
all who live in the world show reverence.
God spoke, and it came to be;
commanded and it stood in place.

The LORD frustrates the designs of the nations,
and defeats the plans of the peoples.
The designs of the LORD stand forever,
the plans of God's heart from age to age.

Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people God has chosen as a heritage.

Our soul is waiting for the LORD,
our God, our help and our shield.
In you do our hearts find joy;
we trust in your holy name.
May your faithful love be upon us,
as we hope in you, O LORD.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:5, 7a-d

| will draw near to you for judgment, / and I will be swift
| to bear witness / Against sorcerers, adulterers, and perjurers,
/ those who deprive a laborer of wages, / Oppress a

widow or an orphan, / or turn aside a resident alien, / without fearing me, says the LORD of hosts.

Since the days of your ancestors you have turned aside / from my statutes and have not kept them. / Return to me, that I may return to you, / says the LORD of hosts.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Humble yourselves, that the Lord may forgive you.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Dancing God, you delight those who dwell in your house, forever singing your praise. In faith we pray: **R7.** Show us your love, O God.

Animate your Church in our proclamation of the Gospel, service to the world, and hospitality to all. **R7.**

Sing in the hearts of those who follow you in a religious or monastic vocation. **R7.**

Help us to find and break down the sources of drug trafficking, terrorism, and oppression of the poor. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God fortify us by the Holy Spirit so that we may walk with ever-growing strength along the path of life that Jesus has set out for us. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

John Howard Griffin

Writer and Witness (1920–1980)

One hundred years ago today, the writer John Howard Griffin was born in Texas. He is best remembered for his classic work, *Black Like Me*, in which he described his experience in the winter of 1959 when he traveled to New Orleans, darkened his skin, shaved his head, and “crossed the line into a country of hate, fear and hopelessness—the country of the American Negro.”

Perhaps the roots of Griffin’s experiment lay in his ten-year experience of blindness—the result of a war injury. This experience prompted a deep spiritual journey that included his conversion to Catholicism. When his sight later miraculously returned, he was struck by how much superficial appearances can serve as obstacles to perception—allowing us to regard certain fellow humans as “the intrinsic other.” This was especially obvious in the case of racism.

Griffin’s book went beyond social observation to examine an underlying disease of the soul. It was really a meditation on the effects of dehumanization, both for the persecuted and the persecutors themselves. When his story was published his body was hung in effigy in his hometown in Texas. Nevertheless he threw himself into a decade of tireless work on behalf of the civil rights movement, persevering with those who shared “the harsh and terrible understanding that somehow they must pit the quality of their love against the quantity of hate roaming the world.” Griffin died on September 9, 1980.

“One hopes that if one acts from a thirst for justice and suffers the consequences, then others . . . may be spared the terror of disesteem and persecution.”

—John Howard Griffin

Mass

Tuesday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):7, 9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. / Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Savior!

COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas,
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.
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.

A reading from the first Book of Kings

21:17-29

You have provoked me by leading Israel into sin.

After the death of Naboth the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite: "Start down to meet Ahab, king of Israel, who rules in Samaria. He will be in the vineyard of Naboth, of which he has come to take possession. This is what you shall tell him, 'The LORD says: After murdering, do you also take possession? For this, the LORD says: In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, the dogs shall lick up your blood, too.'" Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me out, my enemy?" "Yes," he answered. "Because you have given yourself up to doing evil in the LORD's sight, I am bringing evil upon you: I will destroy you and will cut off every male in Ahab's line, whether slave or freeman, in Israel. I will make your house like that of Jeroboam, son of

Nebat, and like that of Baasha, son of Ahijah, because of how you have provoked me by leading Israel into sin.” (Against Jezebel, too, the LORD declared, “The dogs shall devour Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.”) “When one of Ahab’s line dies in the city, dogs will devour him; when one of them dies in the field, the birds of the sky will devour him.” Indeed, no one gave himself up to the doing of evil in the sight of the LORD as did Ahab, urged on by his wife Jezebel. He became completely abominable by following idols, just as the Amorites had done, whom the LORD drove out before the children of Israel.

When Ahab heard these words, he tore his garments and put on sackcloth over his bare flesh. He fasted, slept in the sackcloth, and went about subdued. Then the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, “Have you seen that Ahab has humbled himself before me? Since he has humbled himself before me, I will not bring the evil in his time. I will bring the evil upon his house during the reign of his son.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16

R7. (see 3a) **Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness;
 in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense.
 Thoroughly wash me from my guilt
 and of my sin cleanse me. **R7.**

For I acknowledge my offense,
 and my sin is before me always:
 “Against you only have I sinned,
 and done what is evil in your sight.” **R7.**

Turn away your face from my sins,
and blot out all my guilt.
Free me from blood guilt, O God, my saving God;
then my tongue shall revel in your justice. **R**.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 13:34

I give you a new commandment:
love one another as I have loved you.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

5:43-48

Love your enemies.

Jesus said to his disciples: “You have heard that it was said, *You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.* But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the twofold needs of human nature,
nourishing us with food
and renewing us with your Sacrament,
grant, we pray,
that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 27 (26):4

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: /
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Or:

John 17:11

Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,
/ that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord,
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,
so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

“Play Nice” . . . But Be Honest

I was furious with God. Some years ago, while on retreat, I became engrossed in an Ignatian meditation, imagining myself in the place of Peter, walking on the water toward Jesus amid a raging storm. Except, unlike Peter, I hurled sarcasm and challenges at Jesus, hurt that he would lead me, supposedly his disciple and friend, down the dark and difficult paths I was then experiencing. At the time, God seemed capricious and cruel.

In the reading from the Book of Kings today, it was God who was furious at King Ahab. God’s prophet Elijah made no pretense otherwise. “Ahab,” said Elijah, “You are my enemy, greedy, a murderer, with blood on your hands. Your children will be food for dogs and ravens. Your name has no future on this earth.”

It is so tempting to want to streamline and sanitize the journey of faith. We fulfill our religious obligations, embrace the standard niceties of being Christian (“thoughts,” “prayers,” “blessings”). And slowly we walk away from the mystery at the heart of it all: God willing to relate to us, to wrestle with us, to dish it out, to take it.

When Jesus says, “love your enemies,” he gestures at the incredible emotional range and intensity of God: Ours is a God who can feel and receive wrath. Above all, it is God’s *compassion* that burns most intensely, willing to endure invective and hatred for the sake of the reconciliation and union which follow afterwards.

I wonder why we so often feel the need to “play nice” with Jesus, or with God. This seems a lack of faith. Without being willing to wrestle with God, how will we ever develop the instinct that God loves us unconditionally, at our worst as well as at our best?

Justin Bartkus

Justin Bartkus currently studies human-centered design and business and previously served as a high school theology teacher and as rector of the University of Notre Dame’s Villa residence in Rome. He holds a master of theological studies degree from Notre Dame.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 11

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

In the LORD I have taken refuge.
How can you say to my soul,
“Fly like a bird to the mountain!

“Look, the wicked are bending their bow!
They are fixing their arrow on the string,
to shoot the upright of heart in the dark.
Foundations once destroyed,
what can the righteous do?”

The LORD is in his holy temple;
in heaven is the throne of the LORD,
whose eyes behold the world,
whose gaze inspects the human race.

The LORD inspects the righteous and the wicked,
and hates the lover of violence,
sending fire and brimstone on the wicked,
a scorching wind to fill their cup.
For the LORD is righteous and loves righteous deeds;
the upright shall behold the face of God.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:17-21

Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all. Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave

room for the wrath; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” Rather, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head.” Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

If you love those who love you, what recompense will you have?

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Generous God, your mercy and giving know no end. In hope we pray: **R**. Give us life, O God.

Protect and uphold journalists, photographers, and reporters who seek to know and disclose the truth. **R**.

Relieve the suffering of those who are lonely, rejected, or ridiculed. **R**.

Welcome into the light of your face all who have died in faith. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with every gift we need to love our neighbor as ourselves, through Jesus our hope for everlasting life. Amen.

Wednesday, June 17

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 104:24-32

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

How many are your works, O LORD!

In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

Vast and wide is the span of the sea,
with its creeping things past counting,
living things great and small.

The ships are moving there,
and Leviathan you made to play with.

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up;
you open wide your hand, they are well filled.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take away their breath, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
When you send forth your breath, they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth.

May the glory of the LORD last forever!
May the LORD rejoice in these works!
God looks on the earth and it trembles;
touches the mountains and they smoke.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 3:15-16a, 16c, 17

When those bearing the ark came to the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were immersed in the waters of the Jordan—which overflows all its banks during the entire season of the harvest—the waters flowing from upstream halted, standing up in a single heap; those flowing downstream toward the Salt Sea of the Arabah disappeared entirely. The priests carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood on dry ground in the Jordan riverbed while all Israel crossed on dry ground, until the whole nation had completed the crossing of the Jordan.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

When Elisha struck the water with Elijah's cloak it divided, and he crossed over.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Merciful God, you strengthen those who hope in you. Hear us as we pray: **R7.** Be our help, O God.

Vitalize your Church to be a servant of reconciliation and joyful witness to the resurrection of Jesus. **R7.**

Enliven your Church to address the social and economic trials that pregnant women face. **R7.**

Lead our society to respect the dignity of life from conception to natural death. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May we prefer nothing to the love of Christ, and may he bring us together to everlasting life. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Albert Chmielowski

Founder, Albertine Brothers and Sisters (1845–1916)

Adam Chmielowski was born in Poland to an aristocratic family. At seventeen he lost a leg while participating in a nationalist uprising. Afterward he turned to art and began to achieve recognition for his painting. At the same time, living in Krakow, his heart was increasingly moved by the sufferings of the poor. He finally gave up his life as an artist to assume the life of a poor beggar. With the name Brother Albert, he donned a gray robe and became a Third Order Franciscan.

In time he founded orders of men and women, known as the Albertine Brothers and Sisters, who practiced the works of mercy in soup kitchens and homeless shelters. In one of the shelters that he founded, Brother Albert died on Christmas Day, 1916.

His reputation lived on. Among the priests who attributed their vocation to his example was Karol Wojtyla, who in 1949 wrote a play about him. Years later, as Pope John Paul II, he championed Albert's cause and later presided over his beatification and, in 1989, his canonization. He said of St. Albert, "In his tireless, heroic service on behalf of the marginalized and the poor, he ultimately found his path. He found Christ. He took upon himself Christ's yoke and burden; he did not become merely 'one of those who give alms,' but became the brother to those he served." Today is his feast day.

"You must be as good as bread, which for everyone rests on the table and from which everyone, if hungry, may cut himself a piece for nourishment."

—St. Albert Chmielowski

Mass

Wednesday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):7, 9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. / Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Savior!

COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas,
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.
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.

A reading from the second Book of Kings

2:1, 6-14

*A flaming chariot came between them,
and Elijah went up to heaven.*

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, he and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Please stay here; the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan." "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you," Elisha replied. And so the two went on together. Fifty of the guild prophets followed and when the two stopped at the Jordan, they stood facing them at a distance. Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up and struck the water, which divided, and both crossed over on dry ground.

When they had crossed over, Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask for whatever I may do for you, before I am taken from you."

Elisha answered, "May I receive a double portion of your spirit." "You have asked something that is not easy," Elijah replied. "Still, if you see me taken up from you, your wish will be granted; otherwise not." As they walked on conversing, a flaming chariot and flaming horses came between them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. When Elisha saw it happen he cried out, "My father! my father! Israel's chariots and drivers!" But when he could no longer see him, Elisha gripped his own garment and tore it in two.

Then he picked up Elijah's mantle that had fallen from him, and went back and stood at the bank of the Jordan. Wielding the mantle that had fallen from Elijah, Elisha struck the water in his turn and said, "Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?" When Elisha struck the water it divided and he crossed over.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

31:20, 21, 24

R₇. (25) Let your hearts take comfort, all who hope in the Lord.

How great is the goodness, O LORD,
which you have in store for those who fear you,
And which, toward those who take refuge in you,
you show in the sight of the children of men. **R₇.**

You hide them in the shelter of your presence
from the plottings of men;
You screen them within your abode
from the strife of tongues. **R₇.**

Love the LORD, all you his faithful ones!
The LORD keeps those who are constant,
but more than requites those who act proudly. **R₇.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:23

Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him
and we will come to him.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

6:1-6, 16-18

And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, who love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on street corners so that others may see them. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

“When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearance, so that they may appear to others to be fasting. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you may not appear to others to be fasting, except to your Father who is hidden. And your Father who sees what is hidden will repay you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the twofold needs of human nature,
nourishing us with food
and renewing us with your Sacrament,
grant, we pray,
that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 27 (26):4

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: /
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Or:

John 17:11

Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,
/ that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord,
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,
so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Hidden Seeds of Kindness

Kind folk that they are, my good friends Larry and Judy decided to lend me one of their bikes so I could get back into bike riding. Kindness to them is a daily part of their lives, and I'm sure they haven't given their act of sharing much

thought since or made me feel beholden to them. Judy and Larry are just naturally generous.

However, their simple act of kindness has released a deep sense of gratitude in me. While riding down the trail, I am grateful for the surrounding nature, the bench we frequent that Ken and Pam Hall (another kind couple) donated for trail users to rest on, for having joints that work, and even the soreness that sets into them after our ride. I am grateful for Larry and Judy's friendship and the mutual respect and acceptance it furthers.

Surely, acts of kindness are seeds planted by the Holy Spirit to awaken us to the goodness inherent in one another. To bring us to those "Aha!" moments whereby we *experience* the meaning of Jesus' great commandment to "love one another as I have loved you" (see John 13:34). He unifies us to become his disciples, giving to and receiving from one another.

I'd like to think that the spirit of kindness has settled naturally into my bones, undistinguished between friends or strangers, those I get along with and those whom I have a harder time liking, much less loving. God continues to teach me that the more kindness I give and receive, the closer I am to experiencing unconditional love. The more I love my sisters and brothers that, as Jesus said, "I can see," the greater is my understanding and acceptance of God's love for me and mine for him.

E. Jane Rutter, adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*

E. Jane Rutter is a writer and national fundraising and development consultant. She was formerly the director of stewardship and development for the Diocese of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 105:1-9

Give thanks and proclaim the name of the LORD;
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

O sing to God, sing praise;
tell all the wonderful works of the Lord!
Glory in the holy name of God;
let hearts that seek the LORD rejoice.

Turn to the LORD who is strong;
constantly seek God's face.
Remember the wonders the Lord has done,
great marvels and words of judgment.

O children of Abraham, God's servant,
O descendants of Jacob the chosen one,
it is the LORD who is our God,
whose judgments are in all the earth.

The Lord remembers the covenant forever:
the promise ordained for a thousand generations,
the covenant made with Abraham,
the oath that was sworn to Isaac.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 10:14-18

We are not overreaching ourselves, as though we did not reach you; we indeed first came to you with the gospel of Christ. We are not boasting beyond measure, in

other people's labors; yet our hope is that, as your faith increases, our influence among you may be greatly enlarged, within our proper limits, so that we may preach the gospel even beyond you, not boasting of work already done in another's sphere. "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord." For it is not the one who recommends himself who is approved, but the one whom the Lord recommends.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Do good works quietly, and your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of goodness and love, you shepherd your children in love. With trust we pray: **R7.** Direct our hearts beyond ourselves, O God.

Expand our circle of love to include the poor, immigrants, and refugees. **R7.**

Help us to reach out to those who are young, elderly, or vulnerable. **R7.**

Give us the desire to understand and respect those who have different perspectives and experiences from us. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God, who has done great things for us, fill our hearts with joy and rejoicing, through Jesus our life. Amen.

Thursday, June 18

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 86:11-17

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Teach me, O LORD, your way,
so that I may walk in your truth,
single-heartedly revering your name.

I will praise you, Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forever.

Your faithful love to me has been great;
you have saved me from the depths of Sheol.

The proud have risen against me, O God;
a band of the ruthless seeks my life.
To you they pay no heed.

But you, O God, are compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger, O Lord,
abundant in love and fidelity;
turn and take pity on me.

O give your strength to your servant,
and save the child of your handmaid.
Show me the sign of your favor,
that my foes may see to their shame
that you, O LORD, give me comfort and help.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 1:9, 12-15, 17

Hannah rose after one such meal at Shiloh, and presented herself before the LORD; at the time Eli the priest was

sitting on a chair near the doorpost of the LORD's temple. As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli watched her mouth, for Hannah was praying silently; though her lips were moving, her voice could not be heard. Eli, thinking she was drunk, said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Sober up from your wine!" "No, my lord!" Hannah answered. "I am an unhappy woman. I have had neither wine nor liquor; I was only pouring out my heart to the LORD." Eli said, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have requested."

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Most high God, your mercy and forgiveness are unsurpassed. In awe we pray: **R7**. Lead us by your light of truth, O God.

Inspire creative thinking among communities that address change. **R7**.

Grant holy perseverance to those who struggle in their vocation. **R7**.

Help us to make time to be present to our families, friends, and the sick. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with everything we need to live the call we have received, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Germaine Cousin

Shepherdess (1579–1601)

St. Germaine was a peasant girl from the village of Pibrac, near Toulouse, France. Her mother having died in childbirth, she was raised by an unloving father and a stepmother who made no effort to conceal her dislike for the girl. To keep Germaine away from her own children, her stepmother forced Germaine to sleep in the stable or under the stairs, kept her busy with chores, and fed her table scraps.

Despite the drudgery and injustice of her life, Germaine accepted every insult with cheerfulness and love. She was especially glad to tend the sheep, as this afforded an opportunity for prayer and communion with God. As she stood watch in the field, God “spoke to her soul as he speaks to the humble and clean of heart, and she lived ever consciously in His presence.”

In time Germaine acquired a reputation for holiness. This won her no special privileges at home. Indeed she was punished for sharing her table scraps with beggars. Even her stepmother was caught short, however, when she confronted Germaine on a winter’s day and forced her to open her apron, revealing a cascade of spring flowers.

Afterward her family grudgingly invited Germaine to accept a bed in their home. But this real-life Cinderella preferred her humble place under the stairs. There one day she was found dead at the age of twenty-two. Her grave became a popular site of pilgrimage. She was canonized by Pope Pius IX in 1867.

“I have what God wished me to have, and I want no more.”

—St. Germaine

Mass

Thursday of the Eleventh Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 27 (26):7, 9

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; be my help. / Do not abandon or forsake me, O God, my Savior!

COLLECT

O God, strength of those who hope in you,
graciously hear our pleas,
and, since without you mortal frailty can do nothing,
grant us always the help of your grace,
that in following your commands
we may please you by our resolve and our deeds.
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.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

48:1-14

*Elijah was enveloped in a whirlwind,
and Elisha was filled with the twofold portion of his spirit.*

Like a fire there appeared the prophet Elijah / whose words
were as a flaming furnace. / Their staff of bread he shattered,
/ in his zeal he reduced them to straits; / By the LORD's
word he shut up the heavens / and three times brought down
fire. / How awesome are you, Elijah, in your wondrous deeds!
/ Whose glory is equal to yours? / You brought a dead man
back to life / from the nether world, by the will of the LORD.
/ You sent kings down to destruction, / and easily broke their
power into pieces. / You brought down nobles, from their
beds of sickness. / You heard threats at Sinai, / at Horeb
avenging judgments. / You anointed kings who should inflict
vengeance, / and a prophet as your successor. / You were
taken aloft in a whirlwind of fire, / in a chariot with fiery

horses. / You were destined, it is written, in time to come / to
 put an end to wrath before the day of the LORD, / To turn back
 the hearts of fathers toward their sons, / and to re-establish
 the tribes of Jacob. / Blessed is he who shall have seen you /
 And who falls asleep in your friendship. / For we live only in
 our life, / but after death our name will not be such. / O Elijah,
 enveloped in the whirlwind!

Then Elisha, filled with the twofold portion of his spirit,
 / wrought many marvels by his mere word. / During his
 lifetime he feared no one, / nor was any man able to intimi-
 date his will. / Nothing was beyond his power; / beneath
 him flesh was brought back into life. / In life he performed
 wonders, / and after death, marvelous deeds.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7

R7. (12a) Rejoice in the Lord, you just!

The LORD is king; let the earth rejoice;
 let the many isles be glad.

Clouds and darkness are round about him,
 justice and judgment are the foundation of his throne. **R7.**

Fire goes before him
 and consumes his foes round about.

His lightnings illumine the world;
 the earth sees and trembles. **R7.**

The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
 before the Lord of all the earth.

The heavens proclaim his justice,
 and all peoples see his glory. **R7.**

All who worship graven things are put to shame,
 who glory in the things of nought;
 all gods are prostrate before him. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Romans 8:15bc

You have received a spirit of adoption as sons
through which we cry: Abba! Father!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

6:7-15

This is how you are to pray.

Jesus said to his disciples: “In praying, do not babble like the pagans, who think that they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

“This is how you are to 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.’

“If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who in the offerings presented here
provide for the twofold needs of human nature,
nourishing us with food
and renewing us with your Sacrament,
grant, we pray,
that the sustenance they provide
may not fail us in body or in spirit.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 27 (26):4

There is one thing I ask of the Lord, only this do I seek: /
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

Or:

John 17:11

Holy Father, keep in your name those you have given me,
/ that they may be one as we are one, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As this reception of your Holy Communion, O Lord,
foreshadows the union of the faithful in you,
so may it bring about unity in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A God Longing to Heal

An elderly woman recently sat with me to share her story. She nervously told of the horrific abuse from her past. Grasping the arm of the chair tightly, as if for strength, she revealed the painful consequences of such profound hurt. The woman had stayed away from Church and from God because she thought she needed to heal and save herself before God would finally love her.

This woman's quest for self-salvation echoes within our lives as we hear today's Gospel. Since God already knows our painful pasts, we may question the reason for prayer. However, we pray so as to move beyond any kingdom we may build for ourselves. We don't save ourselves. We cannot fix our own brokenness and thereby earn God's love. We pray listening to the gentleness of God who is unlike any earthly

parent. Only Christ Jesus reveals forgiveness even in our unspoken stories.

Through every turmoil on earth, we bare the mystery of God's Kingdom. God longs to heal the world, offering bread that will feed us today. Forgiving our trespasses is God's initiative within our human nature. Then we shall muster tenderness to eventually forgive those who have abandoned us on earth. God invites us to rest in the Kingdom already on earth.

I witnessed within that elderly woman's eyes a glowing mercy that refreshed itself over many later conversations. God provided such remedy within her through daily prayer. This may happen within each of us, where we learn to trust God in the food given us, the Eucharist for this day.

Fr. Ronald Raab

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Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 89:20-22, 25-30

Then you spoke in a vision,
To your faithful ones you said,
“I have bestowed my help on a warrior,
I have exalted one chosen from the people.

“I have found my servant David,
and with my holy oil anointed him.
My hand shall always be with him,
and my arm shall make him strong.

“My love and my faithfulness shall be with him;
by my name his might shall be exalted.
I will stretch out his hand to the Sea,
and his right hand upon the Rivers.

“He will call out to me, ‘You are my father,
my God, the rock of my salvation.’
I for my part will make him my firstborn,
the highest of the kings of the earth.

“I will keep my faithful love for him always;
with him my covenant shall last.
I will establish his descendants forever,
and his throne as lasting as the days of heaven.”

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Corinthians 14:1-4, 5b

Pursue love, but strive eagerly for the spiritual gifts,
above all that you may prophesy. For one who speaks

in a tongue does not speak to human beings but to God, for no one listens; he utters mysteries in spirit. On the other hand, one who prophesies does speak to human beings, for their building up, encouragement, and solace. Whoever speaks in a tongue builds himself up, but whoever prophesies builds up the church. One who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be built up.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The words of Elijah the prophet were like a flaming furnace.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of grace and glory, in Jesus and by the Holy Spirit you enrich us with every spiritual gift we need. In faith we pray: **R7.** Open our hearts to your will, O God.

Fulfill the longing of those who seek to know you. **R7.**

Help us to persevere in hope and love through our suffering. **R7.**

Strengthen those who face diminishment, transition, or change. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God sustain us by the Spirit and give us health and life and blessing, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Friday, June 19

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.

And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 63:2-9

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;
for you my soul is thirsting.

For you my flesh is pining,
like a dry, weary land without water.

I have come before you in the holy place,
to behold your strength and your glory.

Your faithful love is better than life;
my lips will speak your praise.

I will bless you all my life;
in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you.

When I remember you upon my bed,
I muse on you through the watches of the night.

For you have been my strength;
in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings fast to you;
your right hand upholds me.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 49:13-16

Sing out, heavens, and rejoice, earth, / break forth into
song, you mountains, / For the LORD comforts his
people / and shows mercy to his afflicted.

But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me; / my Lord has forgotten me.” / Can a mother forget her infant, / be without tenderness for the child of her womb? / Even should she forget, / I will never forget you. / See, upon the palms of my hands I have engraved you; / your walls are ever before me.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Ever-faithful God, you have engraved us upon the palms of your hands. Trusting in your compassion we pray:

R. God, in your love, hear us.

Help your Church to meditate on Jesus’ wounds and to ponder his divine and human love. **R.**

Extend your Church’s prayer and mercy to the forgotten peoples and places in the world. **R.**

Heal the brokenhearted and bind their aching wounds. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with full knowledge of the height and depth of God’s love for us in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Lutgardis

Mystic (1182–1246)

With parents too poor to provide a wedding dowry, St. Lutgardis was committed at the age of twelve to a Benedictine convent in the Lowlands. At first she had no inclination to religious life and passed her time as a kind of boarder. Then one day she received a vision of Christ and his wounds and determined at once to renounce all worldly concerns. Her devotion was intensified by frequent visions of Christ—so vivid that she would converse with him quite intimately. If called away to a task, she would say, “Wait here, Lord Jesus, and I will come back directly.”

Eventually she chose to transfer to a more austere Cistercian convent in Aywieres. In the new convent only French was spoken, a language she was never able to master. Despite her sense of isolation, however, she became a much sought-after spiritual counselor, renowned for her gifts of healing and prophecy and her knowledge of Scripture.

In the last eleven years of her life she became completely blind, an affliction she accepted as an occasion for greater detachment from the visible world. When she felt herself close to death she received a vision of the Lord, advising her to praise God for the graces she had received, to pray for the conversion of sinners, and to rely on God alone.

She died on June 16, 1246.

“For every beat of Thy Heart and every act of love, for all Thy thoughts and desires, for all the silent and the uttered prayers which Thou didst offer while on earth . . . for all these I tender Thee a thousand thanks.”

—St. Lutgardis

Mass

The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Psalm 33 (32):11, 19

The designs of his Heart are from age to age, / to rescue
their souls from death, / and to keep them alive in famine.

GLORIA (p. 330)

COLLECT

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that we, who glory in the Heart of your beloved Son
and recall the wonders of his love for us,
may be made worthy to receive
an overflowing measure of grace
from that fount of heavenly gifts.
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.

Or:

O God, who in the Heart of your Son,
wounded by our sins,
bestow on us in mercy
the boundless treasures of your love,
grant, we pray,
that, in paying him the homage of our devotion,
we may also offer worthy reparation.
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.

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

7:6-11

The Lord set his heart on you and chose you.

Moses said to the people: “You are a people sacred to the LORD, your God; he has chosen you from all the nations on the face of the earth to be a people peculiarly his own. It was not because you are the largest of all nations that the LORD set his heart on you and chose you, for you are really the smallest of all nations. It was because the LORD loved you and because of his fidelity to the oath he had sworn to your fathers, that he brought you out with his strong hand from the place of slavery, and ransomed you from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Understand, then, that the LORD, your God, is God indeed, the faithful God who keeps his merciful covenant down to the thousandth generation toward those who love him and keep his commandments, but who repays with destruction a person who hates him; he does not dally with such a one, but makes them personally pay for it. You shall therefore carefully observe the commandments, the statutes and the decrees that I enjoin on you today.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

103:1-2, 3-4, 6, 8, 10

R. (cf. 17) **The Lord’s kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and forget not all his benefits. **R.**

He pardons all your iniquities,
heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and compassion. **R.**

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
 slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
 Not according to our sins does he deal with us,
 nor does he requite us according to our crimes. **R7.**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 4:7-16

God loved us.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know that we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 11:29ab

Take my yoke upon you, says the Lord;
 and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

11:25-30

I am meek and humble of heart.

At that time Jesus exclaimed: “I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 331)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, O Lord, we pray, on the surpassing charity in the Heart of your beloved Son, that what we offer may be a gift acceptable to you and an expiation of our offenses.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. John 7:37-38

Thus says the Lord: / Let whoever is thirsty come to me and drink. / Streams of living water will flow / from within the one who believes in me.

Or:

John 19:34

One of the soldiers opened his side with a lance, / and at once there came forth blood and water.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this sacrament of charity, O Lord,
 make us fervent with the fire of holy love,
 so that, drawn always to your Son,
 we may learn to see him in our neighbor.
 Through Christ our Lord.

*Reflection***The Heart of the Matter**

At seventeen, Marguerite-Marie Alacoque went out at her mother's urging and partied with her brothers and friends. Carnival season was in full swing, with its masquerades and freely flowing wines. The Alacoque family's fortunes, recently restored after years of poverty, provided ample reason to celebrate and finery to wear. But Marguerite, a mystic at heart, preferred devotion to dancing. After one evening's revelry, Marguerite saw Jesus, suffering yet showing her his loving heart. Soon she traded silken ball gowns for a nun's habit.

In the convent, her visions continued. On the feast of St. John, whose scriptural message of God's love Marguerite-Marie surely knew, Jesus invited her to rest her head on his heart. He revealed to her the wonders of his love and urged her to make those wonders known to others. Believers affirmed while skeptics doubted the veracity of her visions. Eventually, the believers prevailed, and Marguerite-Marie's mission fostered widespread, heart-centered Christian piety like hers. Annually, nineteen days after Pentecost, the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The heart of this day, and of the Gospel, is love. God lavishes love not only on large, powerful nations, but on little,

struggling communities, too. God loves not only saints and wise leaders, but also sinners and everyday people. Regardless of who they are, where they come from, how they worship, or whom they love, Jesus opens his humble heart to all who need rest. To whom will you open your own heart today?

Rachel M. Srubas

*Rachel M. Srubas is a Presbyterian clergywoman and Benedictine oblate. She is the author of numerous books, including *The Girl Got Up* and the recently released *Benedictine Promises for Everyday People*.*



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 36:6-11

Your faithful love, O LORD, reaches to heaven,
your truth to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mountains of God;
like the great deep, your justice.
Both human being and beast you save, O LORD.

How precious is your love, O God!
The children of Adam seek shelter
in the shadow of your wings.

They feast on the riches of your house;
you give them drink from the stream of your delight.
For with you is the fountain of life,
and in your light we see light.

Maintain your love for those who know you,
your saving justice to upright hearts.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Romans 8:35-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? As it is written: / “For your sake we are being slain all the day; / we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.” / No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Beloved, if God has so loved us, we also must love one another.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, with you is the fountain of life, and in your light we see light. Expand our vision as we pray:

R⁷. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Heal those who suffer effects from abuse in the Church and society, and help us stop the cycle of this social illness. **R⁷.**

Relieve the suffering of those who bear the effects of natural disaster, environmental trauma, or war. **R⁷.**

Unite Christians in efforts to provide for the needs and welfare of refugees and those who are without homes, jobs, or food. **R⁷.**

Our Father . . .

May God stir the flame of divine love in us and free us to see the face of Jesus in our neighbor, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Saturday, June 20

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 138:1-3, 6-8

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

I thank you, LORD, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down toward your holy temple.

I give thanks to your name
for you have exalted over all
your name and your promise.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul.

The LORD is high, yet looks on the lowly,
and the haughty God knows from afar.
You give me life though I walk amid affliction;
you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes.

With your right hand you save me;
the LORD will accomplish this for me.
O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Sirach 14:20-27

Happy those who meditate on Wisdom, / and fix their
gaze on knowledge; / Who ponder her ways in their
heart, / and understand her paths; / Who pursue her like a

scout, / and watch at her entry way; / Who peep through her windows, / and listen at her doors; / Who encamp near her house / and fasten their tent pegs next to her walls; / Who pitch their tent beside her, / and dwell in a good place; / Who build their nest in her leaves, / and lodge in her branches; / Who take refuge from the heat in her shade / and dwell in her home.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Mary pondered all these things in her heart.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Gracious God, in company with Mary we sing your mercy and love as we pray: **R7**. Remember your covenant, O God.

Teach us your hidden wisdom, and help us to ponder your word. **R7**.

Instill in your Church a spirit of rejoicing and compassion, and make her an effective witness to your unimaginable love. **R7**.

Uphold efforts to ensure that all women have access to adequate health care and child care, and the means to economic stability. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God protect us, show us mercy, and heal us of every affliction that keeps us from knowing that we are loved unconditionally in Jesus, born of Mary. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Blessed Michelina of Pesaro

Widow and Franciscan Tertiary (1300–1356)

Blessed Michelina was born in the town of Pesaro, on the east coast of Italy. At twelve she married a wealthy member of the powerful Malatesta family, with whom she enjoyed a rich and frivolous social life. By twenty, however, she found herself widowed, left with the sole care of her young son, who became the center of her life. A Franciscan tertiary named Syriaca, whom she had befriended, urged her to put aside worldly occupations and devote herself to God. Michelina resisted this counsel. But when her son fell ill and died she put on the habit of a Franciscan tertiary, gave away her possessions to the poor, and took to begging alms from door to door.

Her sudden embrace of voluntary poverty did not inspire a corresponding charity on the part of her neighbors. Her family, thinking her mad, had her confined. Eventually, however, her evident sincerity won them over, and she was set free to dedicate herself to works of mercy, especially care of the sick. In imitation of St. Francis she had a special dedication to lepers, and there were stories of her effecting cures by her kiss. Toward the end of her life she went on pilgrimage to Rome, where she received a mystical share in the sufferings of Christ. She died on June 19, 1356.

“My God, so that I may be certain to find my son close to you, I will then renounce all the vanity of the world!”

—Blessed Michelina of Pesaro

Mass

The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Memorial

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Psalm 13 (12):6

My heart will rejoice in your salvation. / I will sing to the Lord, who has been bountiful with me.

COLLECT

O God, who prepared a fit dwelling place for the Holy Spirit in the Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, graciously grant that through her intercession we may be a worthy temple of your glory. 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.

A reading from the second Book of Chronicles 24:17-25

*They murdered Zechariah between the sanctuary and the altar
(Matthew 23:35).*

After the death of Jehoiada, the princes of Judah came and paid homage to King Joash, and the king then listened to them. They forsook the temple of the LORD, the God of their fathers, and began to serve the sacred poles and the idols; and because of this crime of theirs, wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem. Although prophets were sent to them to convert them to the LORD, the people would not listen to their warnings. Then the Spirit of God possessed Zechariah, son of Jehoiada the priest. He took his stand above the people and said to them: "God says, 'Why are you transgressing the LORD's commands, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have abandoned the LORD, he has abandoned you.'" But they conspired against him, and at the king's order they stoned him to death in the court of

the LORD's temple. Thus King Joash was unmindful of the devotion shown him by Jehoiada, Zechariah's father, and slew his son. And as Zechariah was dying, he said, "May the LORD see and avenge."

At the turn of the year a force of Arameans came up against Joash. They invaded Judah and Jerusalem, did away with all the princes of the people, and sent all their spoil to the king of Damascus. Though the Aramean force came with few men, the LORD surrendered a very large force into their power, because Judah had abandoned the LORD, the God of their fathers. So punishment was meted out to Joash. After the Arameans had departed from him, leaving him in grievous suffering, his servants conspired against him because of the murder of the son of Jehoiada the priest. He was buried in the City of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34

R₇. (29a) For ever I will maintain my love for my servant.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to David my servant:
Forever will I confirm your posterity
and establish your throne for all generations." **R₇.**

"Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
and my covenant with him stands firm.
I will make his posterity endure forever
and his throne as the days of heaven." **R₇.**

"If his sons forsake my law
and walk not according to my ordinances,
If they violate my statutes
and keep not my commands." **R₇.**

“I will punish their crime with a rod
and their guilt with stripes.
Yet my mercy I will not take from him,
nor will I belie my faithfulness.” **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 2:19

Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the word of God
and pondered it in her heart.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 2:41-51

His mother kept all these things in her heart.

Each year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Look, O Lord, upon the prayers and offerings of your faithful,
 presented in commemoration of Blessed Mary, the
 Mother of God,
 that they may be pleasing to you
 and may confer on us your help and forgiveness.
 Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON**Luke 2:19**

Mary treasured all these words, / reflecting on them in her heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having been made partakers of eternal redemption,
 we pray, O Lord,
 that we, who commemorate the Mother of your Son,
 may glory in the fullness of your grace
 and experience its continued increase for our salvation.
 Through Christ our Lord.

*Reflection***A Consequential Mystery**

“What goes around comes around,” my parents and teachers often reminded me when I chose not to follow their guidance. In other words, there would be consequences for my actions. Just as there were consequences for the people of Judah and Jerusalem when they chose not to follow the law and commandments of God.

And just as there are for us today. We bend the rules, we rationalize bad behavior, we turn a blind eye to public bullying

and other forms of harassment. But as people of faith, we should be turning instead to the wise guidance of our biblical tradition and Church teachings. We should look to our Blessed Mother and her son, Jesus, to holy men and women of faith both past and present. Do we follow our faith tradition, or do we choose to disregard what God has placed before us?

The model of Jesus was one of obedience to his Father's will as well as to his parents' guidance. But even Jesus caused his parents great concern and worry when he stayed behind "in his Father's house." Imagine his parents' reaction when they realized he was missing, their joy upon finding him, and probably their exasperation over Jesus being so dismissive of their worry. To be a fly on that temple wall!

Whatever the consequences were for the young Jesus' actions, we are told that he was obedient to his parents from that point forward. And he was obedient to his heavenly Father, even to death on the cross. With his Mother, we ponder this mystery in our heart.

This is the message of our Christian faith: in a very good way, what goes around should come around.

C. Vanessa White

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Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 122

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

I rejoiced when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
And now our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city
bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as is decreed for Israel
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.

There were set the thrones for judgment,
the thrones of the house of David.
For the peace of Jerusalem pray,
“May they prosper, those who love you.”
May peace abide in your walls,
and security be in your towers.

For the sake of my family and friends,
let me say, “Peace upon you.”
For the sake of the house of the LORD, our God,
I will seek good things for you.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may speed forward and be glorified, as it did among you, and that

we may be delivered from perverse and wicked people, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. We are confident of you in the Lord that what we instruct you, you [both] are doing and will continue to do. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the endurance of Christ.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Living God, you are forever faithful to your promise.
In confidence we pray: **R7**. May we abide in your love,
O God.

Lead your Church to manifest love for Christ by care for
refugees and immigrants, children and elders. **R7**.

Advance and prosper efforts in evangelization and
ecumenism among Christians. **R7**.

Help us to pray for our enemies. **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May the Lord direct our hearts to the love of God and the
endurance of Christ, through the working of the Holy
Spirit. Amen.





Indeed, the very hairs of
your head are all numbered.
Don't be afraid; you are worth more
than many sparrows.

Sunday, June 21

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 100

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Cry out with joy to the LORD, all the earth.
Serve the LORD with gladness.
Come before God, singing for joy.

Know that the LORD is God,
who made us, to whom we belong.
We are God's people, the sheep of God's flock.

Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving
and its courts with songs of praise.
Give thanks and bless God's name.

Indeed, how good is the LORD,
eternal God's merciful love.
God is faithful from age to age.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Job 19:21-27

Pity me, pity me, you my friends, / for the hand of God
has struck me! / Why do you pursue me like God, / and
prey insatiably upon me? / Oh, would that my words were
written down! / Would that they were inscribed in a record:
/ That with an iron chisel and with lead / they were cut in
the rock forever! / As for me, I know that my vindicator

lives, / and that he will at last stand forth upon the dust. / This will happen when my skin has been stripped off, / and from my flesh I will see God: / I will see for myself, / my own eyes, not another's, will behold him: / my inmost being is consumed with longing.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Do not be afraid; the Lord rescues the life of the poor.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Loving God, you shepherd your people in love. In hope we pray: **R7.** God, fill our hearts with rejoicing.

Help all your Church to rejoice in our baptism and to share in the death and resurrection of Jesus. **R7.**

Inspire the preaching, teaching, and leadership of Pope Francis, bishops, and Church leaders. **R7.**

Bless fathers and all who show a father's love, and help us to show our appreciation for their presence and care. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God fill our hearts with amazement and wonder at all the works of the Lord, the beauty of creation, and the love of Jesus the Good Shepherd. Amen.

Mass

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 28 (27):8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, / a saving refuge
for the one he has anointed. / Save your people, Lord, and
bless your heritage, / and govern them for ever.

GLORIA (p. 330)

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
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.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 20:10-13

He has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked.

Jeremiah said: / “I hear the whisperings of many: / ‘Ter-
ror on every side! / Denounce! Let us denounce him!’
/ All those who were my friends / are on the watch for any
misstep of mine. / ‘Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can
prevail, / and take our vengeance on him.’ / But the LORD
is with me, like a mighty champion: / my persecutors will
stumble, they will not triumph. / In their failure they will
be put to utter shame, / to lasting, unforgettable confusion.
/ O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, / who probe mind
and heart, / let me witness the vengeance you take on them,
/ for to you I have entrusted my cause. / Sing to the LORD,

/ praise the LORD, / for he has rescued the life of the poor /
from the power of the wicked!”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

R. (14c) Lord, in your great love, answer me.

For your sake I bear insult,
and shame covers my face.

I have become an outcast to my brothers,
a stranger to my children,
because zeal for your house consumes me,
and the insults of those who blaspheme you fall
upon me. **R.**

I pray to you, O LORD,
for the time of your favor, O God!

In your great kindness answer me
with your constant help.

Answer me, O LORD, for bounteous is your kindness;
in your great mercy turn toward me. **R.**

“See, you lowly ones, and be glad;
you who seek God, may your hearts revive!

For the LORD hears the poor,
and his own who are in bonds he spurns not.

Let the heavens and the earth praise him,
the seas and whatever moves in them!” **R.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

5:12-15

The gift is not like the transgression.

Brothers and sisters: Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned—for up to the time of the

law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law. But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 15:26b, 27a

The Spirit of truth will testify to me, says the Lord;
and you also will testify.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

10:26-33

Do not be afraid of those who kill the body.

Jesus said to the Twelve: “Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father’s knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 331)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise
and grant that, cleansed by its action,
we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 145 (144):15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, / and you give them
their food in due season.

Or:

John 10:11, 15

I am the Good Shepherd, / and I lay down my life for my
sheep, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Deliverance from Dread

God is not ignorant of anything that happens in creation, and if God loves us more truly than the best human father, and if God loves us so as to have numbered our very hairs, then we need not be afraid. Jesus said this not to indicate that God literally has a number placed on the very hairs of our head but

rather to show that God has perfect knowledge of everything about us and providentially cares for everything about us.

Therefore, if God both knows all things that happen to us and is able to save us and willing to do so, then whatever we may be suffering, we need not think that God has forsaken us in our suffering. For it is not God's will to keep us wholly separated from that which elicits dread but rather to persuade us not to make an idol out of whatever we dread. It is this, more than anything else, that constitutes deliverance from dread. "Therefore, don't be afraid. You are of more value than many sparrows." Don't you see that God views your fear with more concern than the lives of many sparrows? He already knows the secrets of your heart. Hence Jesus adds, "Do not fear." For even if that which you dread prevails, it prevails only over your body; this is the limited part of yourself, which nature will surely take in due time and bring to an end.

..... St. John Chrysostom, *Homily 34 on the Gospel of Matthew*

John Chrysostom (ca. 347–407) was one of the early Church Fathers. As a priest he gained a reputation for his eloquent preaching on Sacred Scripture—"Chrysostom" means "golden-mouth." He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1568.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 24:1-6

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

The LORD's is the earth and its fullness,
the world, and those who dwell in it.
It is the Lord who set it on the seas,
and made it firm on the rivers.

Who shall climb the mountain of the LORD?
Who shall stand in God's holy place?
The clean of hands and pure of heart,
whose souls are not set on vain things,
who have not sworn deceitful words.

Blessings from the LORD shall they receive,
and right reward from the God who saves them.
Such are the people who seek the Lord,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 2:11-13

This saying is trustworthy: / If we have died with him /
we shall also live with him; / if we persevere / we shall
also reign with him. / But if we deny him / he will deny us.
/ If we are unfaithful / he remains faithful, / for he cannot
deny himself.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my Father.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Creating God, the earth and all her people are in your tender care. In faith we pray: **R7.** God of blessing, hear our prayer.

Refresh and protect travelers, vacationers, and pilgrims. **R7.**

Grant favorable weather for the growing of crops, and prosper the labor of farmers, gardeners, and all who work the land. **R7.**

Give everlasting life to our deceased fathers and grandfathers. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the God of all grace bless us with peace, joy in the Risen Lord, and happiness in the life to come. Amen.

June 21–27

Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

Within the Word

Born to Give Witness

“What, then, will this child be?” From before his birth, it was clear that John the Baptist was a special child. As an adult, he prophetically read the “signs of the times.”

Around 150 BC the Jewish Hasmonean dynasty had unexpectedly thrown off the oppressive rule of the Seleucids; but a regime that began with such hope had over time grown corrupt, imitating the ruthless style of their former overlords, and buying and selling the high priesthood. Israel dissolved into civil war among rival factions. To make matters worse, the Romans were invited in to arbitrate the civil war—their power over Israel not to be relaxed for centuries.

Out of such chaos had appeared several reform movements, such as the Essene community who occupied Qumran on the northwest corner of the Dead Sea. They moved to the desert to live a life of strict asceticism, awaiting God’s punishment of those who betrayed Israel’s ideals. Another was the emergence of the Pharisees, a lay reform movement intent on enabling ordinary Jews to live faithfully according to the law in the circumstances of daily life.

Amid this turmoil one of the most striking figures was the adult John the Baptist, who made an impression even on the Jewish historian Josephus, as well as on the corrupt ruler Herod Antipas, who eventually would take John’s life. Like a prophet of old, John challenged Israel to return to its deepest ideals. With a keen sense of symbolism, John began his mission on the edge of the desert from which Israel had first emerged to

enter the Promised Land. Those who heard John's call to repentance underwent a symbolic immersion in the Jordan, the very boundary Israel had crossed on its way to its God-given land.

The attention to John in the New Testament is not simply out of historical interest. He is the "voice crying out in the desert" who anticipates the advent of Jesus himself, the hoped-for Messiah. Luke's Gospel entwines the lives of John and Jesus from the moment of their conception—they are cousins, each of whom spring to life unexpectedly. Zechariah and Elizabeth—like Abraham and Sarah before them—are too old to give birth. Mary is too young and still a virgin. In the wombs of their mothers, the two infants would meet in the exquisite scene of the Visitation, with John leaping for joy at the presence of Jesus.

The readings for the feast of the Nativity of John the Baptist reflect the hopes for this cousin of Jesus: In Isaiah 49 the prophet senses he is called by the Lord "from his mother's womb" to be a "light to the nations." The psalmist praises God for having wondrously "knit me in my mother's womb." And in the Gospel passage from Luke, Zechariah finally realizes that the child born to him and Elizabeth was unique in all of history, prompting the amazed reaction of the people, "What, then, will this child be?" For surely the hand of the Lord was with him."

At the same time, John, the "greatest of the prophets," would later testify, the attention should fall on Jesus: ". . . one who is more powerful than I is coming. I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals" (Luke 3:16).

The figure of John celebrated in this feast of his nativity not only anticipates the advent of Christ but is a model of discipleship: reverencing Jesus, proclaiming Jesus, and giving full witness to him.

—Fr. Donald Senior

Donald Senior, CP, is President Emeritus and Professor of New Testament at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Monday, June 22

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 103:1-5, 8-10

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, the holy name of God.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all God's benefits.

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion,
who fills your life with good things,
renewing your youth like an eagle's.

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in love,
not always finding fault,
nor persisting in anger forever.
God does not treat us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our faults.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Baruch 2:11-14

N]ow, LORD, God of Israel, who led your people out of
the land of Egypt with a strong hand, with signs and

wonders and great might, and with an upraised arm, so that you have made for yourself a name to the present day: we have sinned, we have committed sacrilege, we have violated all your statutes, LORD, our God. Withdraw your anger from us, for we are left few in number among the nations where you have scattered us. Hear, LORD, our prayer of supplication, and deliver us for your own sake: grant us favor in the sight of those who brought us into exile.”

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Help us, O Lord, and answer us.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, our rock, you are the strength of your people. In hope we pray: **R7.** Save us, O God.

Heal us of hypocrisy, greed, and selfishness. **R7.**

Give the oppressed aid against their oppressors. **R7.**

Thwart the plots of terrorists and all who seek to harm or destroy others. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God lead us from hate to love, from war to peace, through Jesus our peace. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Saints John Fisher and Thomas More

Martyrs (d. 1535)

John Fisher, a bishop, and Thomas More, a layman, were among the most prominent martyrs during the English Reformation under King Henry VIII. More was one of the most highly respected men of his time, having risen, by 1529, to the post of Lord Chancellor of England. Though he considered himself a loyal friend and servant of the king, by this point King Henry was moving on a collision course with the authority of the Catholic Church. The issue was his desire to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon and marry Anne Boleyn. When the pope blocked his way, Henry divorced Catherine, married Anne, and required that all subjects repudiate “any foreign authority, prince or potentate.” Rather than oppose the king, More resigned his position, but when he refused to take the oath he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

John Fisher, the bishop of Rochester, served as a strong defender of Catherine’s marriage. Like More he refused—alone among all his fellow bishops—to take an oath acknowledging Henry’s supremacy over the Church in England. He too was arrested and remanded to the Tower. Both Fisher and More were beheaded. Both showed great courage in facing their deaths. Standing on the scaffold, More addressed the crowd: “I die as the king’s true servant, but God’s first.”

“Little as I meddle in the conscience of others, I am certain that my conscience belongs to me alone. It is the last thing that a man can do for his salvation: to be at one with himself.”

—St. Thomas More

Mass

Monday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time
 [St. Paulinus of Nola; Saints John Fisher and Thomas More,
 opt. memorials]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 28 (27):8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, / a saving refuge
 for the one he has anointed. / Save your people, Lord, and
 bless your heritage, / and govern them for ever.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
 that we may always revere and love your holy name,
 for you never deprive of your guidance
 those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
 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.

A reading from the second Book of Kings 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18

*In his great anger against Israel, the LORD put them away
 out of his sight. Only the tribe of Judah was left.*

Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, occupied the whole land
 and attacked Samaria, which he besieged for three
 years. In the ninth year of Hoshea, king of Israel, the king
 of Assyria took Samaria, and deported the children of Israel
 to Assyria, setting them in Halah, at the Habor, a river of
 Gozan, and the cities of the Medes.

This came about because the children of Israel sinned
 against the LORD, their God, who had brought them up from
 the land of Egypt, from under the domination of Pharaoh,
 king of Egypt, and because they venerated other gods. They
 followed the rites of the nations whom the LORD had cleared

out of the way of the children of Israel and the kings of Israel whom they set up.

And though the LORD warned Israel and Judah by every prophet and seer, “Give up your evil ways and keep my commandments and statutes, in accordance with the entire law which I enjoined on your fathers and which I sent you by my servants the prophets,” they did not listen, but were as stiff-necked as their fathers, who had not believed in the LORD, their God. They rejected his statutes, the covenant which he had made with their fathers, and the warnings which he had given them, till, in his great anger against Israel, the LORD put them away out of his sight. Only the tribe of Judah was left.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

60:3, 4-5, 12-13

R7. (7b) Help us with your right hand, O Lord, and answer us.

O God, you have rejected us and broken our defenses;
you have been angry; rally us! **R7.**

You have rocked the country and split it open;
repair the cracks in it, for it is tottering.

You have made your people feel hardships;
you have given us stupefying wine. **R7.**

Have not you, O God, rejected us,
so that you go not forth, O God, with our armies?

Give us aid against the foe,
for worthless is the help of men. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 4:12

The word of God is living and effective,
able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

7:1-5

Remove the wooden beam from your eye first.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Stop judging, that you may not be judged. For as you judge, so will you be judged, and the measure with which you measure will be measured out to you. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother’s eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me remove that splinter from your eye,’ while the wooden beam is in your eye? You hypocrite, remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter from your brother’s eye.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise
and grant that, cleansed by its action,
we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 145 (144):15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, / and you give them
their food in due season.

Or:

John 10:11, 15

I am the Good Shepherd, / and I lay down my life for my
sheep, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Hear This

Remove the wooden beam from your eye first.

I have a friend who was losing his hearing but could not accept it. He would endlessly complain about others speaking too softly, especially his wife. He would shout at others without realizing it. It caused chaos in his life, but he was too stubborn to accept reality. Eventually he and his wife had a huge argument, and she threatened to divorce him unless he had his hearing tested. To his surprise, he had a severe hearing loss, and it was even worse at the higher pitch of his wife's voice! He readily got hearing aids and put his marriage back on track.

His hearing much improved, my friend was suddenly attentive to others who talked loudly. One day, he said to me, "Stop shouting! You need to get a hearing test." I relented and was shocked to find my own hearing was significantly impaired. Fortunately for me it was only a temporary condition, but it took someone else to helpfully point it out to me.

I wonder how we would fare if there was a hearing test for the soul. I suspect we may have a loss, if only temporary, caused by our sin—"in our thoughts and in our words, in what we have done and in what we have failed to do." Let's not be judgmental about the weaknesses of others while being unwilling to accept our own weaknesses.

Stop shouting! You need to get a soul test.

Fr. Brendan McGuire

Brendan McGuire is Special Advisor to the Bishop of San Jose, where he is also pastor of Holy Spirit Parish.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 119:17-24

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
Open my eyes, that I may see
the wonders of your law.

I am a pilgrim in the land;
hide not your commands from me.
My soul is consumed with longing
at all times for your decrees.

You threaten the proud, the accursed,
who stray from your commands.
Free me from scorn and contempt,
for I observe your decrees.

Though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant ponders your statutes.
See, your decrees are my delight;
your statutes are my counselors.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

James 4:11-12

Do not speak evil of one another. . . . Whoever speaks evil of a brother or judges his brother speaks evil of the law and judges the law. If you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is one lawgiver and judge who is able to save or to destroy. Who then are you to judge your neighbor?

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

As you judge, so will you be judged.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Just God, you deal bountifully with those who keep your word. In faith we pray: **R7**. Shape our hearts in love, O God.

For seminarians, deacons, and novices in religious life, we pray: **R7**.

For engaged couples, those who are newly married, and parents, we pray: **R7**.

For the baptized, for those seeking faith, and for all who believe in you, we pray: **R7**.

Our Father . . .

May God look upon us with kindness and give us peace, through Jesus our brother. Amen.

Tuesday, June 23

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 5:2-6, 12-13

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

To my words give ear, O LORD;
give heed to my sighs.
Attend to the sound of my cry,
my Sovereign and my God.

To you do I pray, O LORD.
In the morning you hear my voice;
in the morning I plead and watch before you.

You are no God who delights in evil;
no sinner is your guest.
The boastful shall not stand before your eyes.

All who take refuge in you shall be glad,
and ever cry out their joy.
You shelter them; in you they rejoice,
those who love your name.
It is you who bless the righteous, O LORD,
you surround them with your favor like a shield.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Judges 10:11, 12b-16

The LORD answered the Israelites: Did not the Egyptians, the Amorites, the Ammonites, the Philistines . . . oppress you? Yet when you cried out to me, and I saved you from their power, you still abandoned me and served other

gods. Therefore I will save you no more. Go and cry out to the gods you have chosen; let them save you in your time of distress. But the Israelites said to the LORD, “We have sinned. Do to us whatever is good in your sight. Only deliver us this day!” And they cast out the foreign gods from their midst and served the LORD, so that he grieved over the misery of Israel.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The Lord has compassion for his people.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of bountiful blessing, your mercy is the cause of our joy. In trust we pray: **R.** O God, come to our aid.

Send your ready help to young people who are pressured by gangs, peers, or heavy responsibility. **R.**

Care for the needs of those who are recently home from war, prison, or traumatic circumstances. **R.**

Shower your care upon those who are rejected, ignored, or bullied by others. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May the peace of Christ reign in our hearts, now and always. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Etheldreda

Abbess (ca. 636–679)

Etheldreda, one of the most popular of Anglo-Saxon saints, was the daughter of King Anna of East Anglia. Though she wished to devote herself to God, she was twice forced into political marriages—the first time to a much older man, who died shortly after the wedding. She was happy to settle into a life of prayer on the Isle of Ely, a desolate piece of land which her husband had given her. Nevertheless, she was soon forced into another marriage—this time to a prince of fifteen. Her consort was content for some years to comply with her wish for a chaste relationship, but eventually he sought to revise the terms of their relationship. Etheldreda, insisting she had taken a vow to maintain her virginity, appealed to Bishop Wilfrid of York. The bishop sided with Etheldreda and consecrated her vocation. Returning to Ely, she established a double monastery for men and women.

In his history of the English Church, St. Bede notes with wonder that Etheldreda never dressed in linen garments but only in simple wool, that she seldom bathed in hot water, customarily ate no more than one meal per day, and regularly spent the entire night in prayer. He also relates at length the story that when her coffin was opened, sixteen years after her death in 679, she was found to be incorrupt, “as if she had died and been buried that very day.”

“And this virgin began to be the mother of many, both by her example and her heavenly admonitions.”

—St. Bede on St. Etheldreda

Mass

Tuesday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 28 (27):8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, / a saving refuge
for the one he has anointed. / Save your people, Lord, and
bless your heritage, / and govern them for ever.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
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.

A reading from the second Book of Kings

19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36

*I will shield and save this city for my own sake
and for the sake of my servant David.*

Sennacherib, king of Assyria, sent envoys to Hezekiah with this message: “Thus shall you say to Hezekiah, king of Judah: ‘Do not let your God on whom you rely deceive you by saying that Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria. You have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all other countries: they doomed them! Will you, then, be saved?’”

Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it; then he went up to the temple of the LORD, and spreading it out before him, he prayed in the LORD’s presence: “O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned upon the cherubim! You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth.

You have made the heavens and the earth. Incline your ear, O LORD, and listen! Open your eyes, O LORD, and see! Hear the words of Sennacherib which he sent to taunt the living God. Truly, O LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands, and cast their gods into the fire; they destroyed them because they were not gods, but the work of human hands, wood and stone. Therefore, O LORD, our God, save us from the power of this man, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God.”

Then Isaiah, son of Amoz, sent this message to Hezekiah: “Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, in answer to your prayer for help against Sennacherib, king of Assyria: I have listened! This is the word the LORD has spoken concerning him: / “She despises you, laughs you to scorn, / the virgin daughter Zion! / Behind you she wags her head, / daughter Jerusalem.

“‘For out of Jerusalem shall come a remnant, / and from Mount Zion, survivors. / The zeal of the LORD of hosts shall do this.’

“Therefore, thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria: ‘He shall not reach this city, nor shoot an arrow at it, nor come before it with a shield, nor cast up siege-works against it. He shall return by the same way he came, without entering the city, says the LORD. I will shield and save this city for my own sake, and for the sake of my servant David.’”

That night the angel of the LORD went forth and struck down one hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. So Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, broke camp, and went back home to Nineveh.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11

R. (see 9d) God upholds his city for ever.

Great is the LORD and wholly to be praised
in the city of our God.

His holy mountain, fairest of heights,
is the joy of all the earth. **R.**

Mount Zion, “the recesses of the North,”
is the city of the great King.

God is with her castles;
renowned is he as a stronghold. **R.**

O God, we ponder your mercy
within your temple.

As your name, O God, so also your praise
reaches to the ends of the earth.

Of justice your right hand is full. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 8:12

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

7:6, 12-14

Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Do not give what is holy to dogs, or throw your pearls before swine, lest they trample them underfoot, and turn and tear you to pieces.

“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the Law and the Prophets.

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter

through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 145 (144):15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, / and you give them their food in due season.

Or:

John 10:11, 15

I am the Good Shepherd, / and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Openness to Heaven

In a culture where dogs are greatly cherished—fur babies, we call them—it is hard to make sense of the teaching in today's Gospel. Fitz, our family dog, has been a blessing to us for the past seven years. He is a spunky and smart rat terrier who is adept at alerting us with sharp barks whenever anyone comes near the house. He also has the worthy task in our South Louisiana home to catch and kill any bug that dares to show itself in his presence. Caring for him teaches us about self-gift, loyalty, and sacrifice. Good boy, Fitz.

But in Jesus' time and culture, dogs were regarded as dirty and offensive. Like swine. Think rats and roaches. Giving what is holy to a dog is like imagining a cockroach scutter across one's holy cards in the prayer corner.

The teaching is not meant to insult animals. Rather, it is a sharp contrast to make a point about heaven and earth. Holiness is that which belongs to God—more precisely, that which comes from God and leads back to God—to heaven. Holiness is something that assumes our openness to the reality of heaven.

Through this teaching, Jesus asks us to discern how and in what ways we might share his Good News. The Gospel is holy, precious, and meant to be proclaimed—often with earthy images. But to go and proclaim does not mean indiscriminately broadcasting whatever we want, regardless of who is listening. Rather, to go and tell starts with listening and asking the Spirit to show us how to best communicate the Gospel so that it can give life to the one hearing it.

Daniella Zsupan-Jerome

Daniella Zsupan-Jerome, Ph.D. is author of Connected Toward Communion: The Church and Social Communication in the Digital Age (Liturgical Press).

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 99:1-2, 5-9

The LORD is king; the peoples tremble.
God is enthroned on the cherubim; earth quakes.
The LORD is great in Zion,
exalted over all the peoples.

Exalt the LORD our God;
bow down before God's footstool,
for the Lord our God is holy!

Among God's priests were Aaron and Moses;
among those who invoked God's name was Samuel.
They cried out to the LORD, who answered.

To them the Lord spoke in the pillar of cloud.
They obeyed the decrees and the statutes
which the Lord had given them.

O LORD our God, you answered them.
For them you were a God who forgives,
and yet you punished their offenses.

Exalt the LORD our God;
bow down before the holy mountain,
for the LORD our God is holy.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who in his great mercy gave us a new birth to a living
hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you who by the power of God are safeguarded through faith, to a salvation that is ready to be revealed in the final time. In this you rejoice, although now for a little while you may have to suffer through various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, may prove to be for praise, glory, and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Enter through the narrow gate; it leads to life.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of light, in you all truth is brought forth. In confidence we pray: **R7.** God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

Safeguard children who live in the midst of violence, rescue child soldiers, and lead all young people to know the preciousness of life. **R7.**

Comfort and heal those who will have surgery or are undergoing extended medical treatment. **R7.**

Welcome all the faithful departed into the light of your presence. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless the work of our hands and hearts and let all our deeds bear fruit in righteousness and truth, through Jesus our peace. Amen.

Wednesday, June 24

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 135:1-6, 19-20

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

Alleluia!

Praise the name of the LORD;
give praise, O servants of the LORD,
who stand in the house of the LORD,
in the courts of the house of our God.

Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good.
Sing a psalm to God's name, who is gracious.
For the LORD has chosen Jacob,
and Israel as a treasured possession.

For I know that the LORD is great,
that our Lord is high above all gods.
Whatever the LORD wills is accomplished,
in heaven, and on earth,
in the seas, and in all the depths.

House of Israel, bless the LORD!
House of Aaron, bless the LORD!
House of Levi, bless the LORD!
You who fear the LORD, bless the LORD!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Malachi 3:22-24

Remember the law of Moses my servant, / whom I
charged at Horeb / With statutes and ordinances / for

all Israel. / Now I am sending to you / Elijah the prophet, /
Before the day of the LORD comes, / the great and terrible
day; / He will turn the heart of fathers to their sons, / and
the heart of sons to their fathers, / Lest I come and strike /
the land with utter destruction.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or
another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The Lord formed me in the womb to proclaim the word
of salvation.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of salvation, you called John the Baptist from birth
to prepare your people for the coming of Christ. In joy we
pray: **R**. Turn our hearts to you, O God.

Inspire your Church to embody and expand upon the
prophetic vision of Vatican II. **R**.

Help us to listen with love and speak with kindness. **R**.

Lead your Church to extend compassion to the poor and
to lovingly include everyone at the table of the Lord. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God give us the grace to walk daily in courage and
truth, through Jesus, the Lamb of God. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. María Guadalupe García Zavala

Cofounder, Handmaids of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the Poor (1878–1963)

María Guadalupe García Zavala was born in Jalisco, Mexico. At the age of twenty-three she broke off an engagement, convinced that Jesus was calling her to serve the poor. When her spiritual director described his intention to form a religious congregation devoted to the sick poor, María agreed to join him. In 1901, after attracting other women, they cofounded the Handmaids of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the Poor and set up a small hospital. María, also known as “Mother Lupita,” served as superior general.

The congregation steadily grew. On top of her administrative duties—eleven foundations were established in Mexico during her lifetime—María devoted herself to nursing her patients, attending to both their physical and spiritual needs. Wishing to be “poor with the poor,” she did not hesitate, when funds ran short, to beg in the streets.

The Mexican Revolution was followed by a long period of anti-Catholic persecution. To continue their work, María and her sisters were forced for some years to put aside their religious habits. She risked her life by hiding priests and even the archbishop of Guadalajara in her hospital. Eventually the storm passed, and she was widely recognized for her service to all in need. She died after a long illness on June 24, 1963. She was canonized in 2013.

“With deep faith, unlimited hope and great love for Christ, Mother ‘Lupita’ . . . lived the motto which she left to her daughters: ‘Charity to the point of sacrifice and perseverance unto death.’”

—Pope John Paul II

Mass

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

John 1:6-7; Luke 1:17

A man was sent from God, whose name was John. / He came to testify to the light, / to prepare a people fit for the Lord.

GLORIA (p. 330)

COLLECT

O God, who raised up Saint John the Baptist to make ready a nation fit for Christ the Lord, give your people, we pray, the grace of spiritual joys and direct the hearts of all the faithful into the way of salvation and peace. 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.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 49:1-6

I will make you a light to the nations.

Hear me, O coastlands, / listen, O distant peoples. / The LORD called me from birth, / from my mother's womb he gave me my name. / He made of me a sharp-edged sword / and concealed me in the shadow of his arm. / He made me a polished arrow, / in his quiver he hid me. / You are my servant, he said to me, / Israel, through whom I show my glory.

Though I thought I had toiled in vain, / and for nothing, uselessly, spent my strength, / yet my reward is with the LORD, / my recompense is with my God. / For now the LORD has spoken / who formed me as his servant from the womb,

/ that Jacob may be brought back to him / and Israel gathered to him; / and I am made glorious in the sight of the LORD, / and my God is now my strength! / It is too little, he says, for you to be my servant, / to raise up the tribes of Jacob, / and restore the survivors of Israel; / I will make you a light to the nations, / that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15

R7. (14a) I praise you, for I am wonderfully made.

O LORD, you have probed me, you know me:

you know when I sit and when I stand;
you understand my thoughts from afar.

My journeys and my rest you scrutinize,
with all my ways you are familiar. **R7.**

Truly you have formed my inmost being;
you knit me in my mother's womb.

I give you thanks that I am fearfully, wonderfully made;
wonderful are your works. **R7.**

My soul also you knew full well;
nor was my frame unknown to you

When I was made in secret,
when I was fashioned in the depths of the earth. **R7.**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

13:22-26

John heralded his coming by proclaiming a baptism of repentance.

In those days, Paul said: "God raised up David as king; of him God testified, *I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will carry out my every wish.* From this man's descendants God, according to his promise, has brought to Israel a savior, Jesus. John heralded his coming

by proclaiming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel; and as John was completing his course, he would say, ‘What do you suppose that I am? I am not he. Behold, one is coming after me; I am not worthy to unfasten the sandals of his feet.’

“My brothers, sons of the family of Abraham, and those others among you who are God-fearing, to us this word of salvation has been sent.”

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

See Luke 1:76

You, child, will be called prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

1:57-66, 80

John is his name.

When the time arrived for Elizabeth to have her child she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy toward her, and they rejoiced with her. When they came on the eighth day to circumcise the child, they were going to call him Zechariah after his father, but his mother said in reply, “No. He will be called John.” But they answered her, “There is no one among your relatives who has this name.” So they made signs, asking his father what he wished him to be called. He asked for a tablet and wrote, “John is his name,” and all were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened, his tongue freed, and he spoke blessing God. Then fear came upon all their neighbors, and all these matters were discussed throughout the hill country of Judea. All who heard these things took them to heart, saying, “What, then, will this child be?” For surely the hand of the Lord was with him.

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the desert until the day of his manifestation to Israel.
The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 331)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We place these offerings on your altar, O Lord,
to celebrate with fitting honor the nativity of him
who both foretold the coming of the world's Savior
and pointed him out when he came.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Luke 1:78

Through the tender mercy of our God, / the Dawn from
on high will visit us.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Having feasted at the banquet of the heavenly Lamb,
we pray, O Lord,
that, finding joy in the nativity of Saint John the Baptist,
your Church may know as the author of her rebirth
the Christ whose coming John foretold.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Reflection

The Grace of John's Name

A fountain of life and grace rose from the midst of Paradise to water the trees of Paradise.

Near to the fountain was this noble cedar, John, the Bridegroom's cousin and friend, the Lord's Forerunner, Baptist and

Martyr; and thus watered more copiously he grew to such a height that no one among those born of women could be found more lofty than he. Indeed he was near to the Savior, not only by ties of blood and intimate friendship, but also more than others by the glory of his annunciation, the novelty of his birth, his holiness even before birth, his preaching so similar, his authority to baptize, his strength in suffering. If all else were lacking, if all the oracles of the prophets were silent concerning him, the grace of his name alone [“John” means “God is gracious”], which was given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb, would be enough to bear ample witness to the grace of God which would be in him.

It was fitting, to be sure, that the Grace of God, brought forth by a woman who was full of grace, should be proclaimed by a man full of grace; that he should be distinguished by outstanding grace who marked off like a boundary the time of grace from the time of the Law. For up to John the Law and the prophets prophesied; he was the first to manifest the presence of the one whom the Law and prophecy had promised would come.

Rightly then did the birth of this child make many rejoice then and does make many rejoice today: born in the old age of his parents he was to preach the grace of rebirth to an aging world.

----- Blessed Gueric of Igny, *Sermon for St. John the Baptist*

Gueric of Igny (ca. 1070–1157) was educated in the humanities and theology. An esteemed and seasoned scholar, he was encouraged to enter monastic life by Bernard of Clairvaux. He was elected abbot of Igny in 1138.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 1

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Blessed indeed are those
who follow not the counsel of the wicked,
nor stand in the path with sinners,
nor abide in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the LORD,
and who ponder God's law day and night.

Such people are like trees that are planted
beside the flowing waters,
that yield their fruit in due season,
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that they do shall prosper.

Not so are the wicked, not so!
For they, like winnowed chaff,
shall be driven away by the wind.

When the wicked are judged they shall not rise,
nor shall sinners in the council of the righteous;
for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 4:1-5

charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who will judge the living and the dead, and by his ap-
pearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be per-
sistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince,

reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching. For the time will come when people will not tolerate sound doctrine but, following their own desires and insatiable curiosity, will accumulate teachers and will stop listening to the truth and will be diverted to myths. But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances; put up with hardship; perform the work of an evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The child grew and became strong in spirit.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of wisdom, your everlasting word is our salvation. In company with John the Baptist we pray: **R7.** Make us strong in your spirit, O God.

Loosen the bonds of sin that cause division in your Church and separate us from one another. **R7.**

Give courage to missionaries, prophets, and evangelists as they proclaim your living word. **R7.**

Heal those who are in recovery for addiction, and embolden those who are addicted to opioids to seek support and help. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with us, now and always. Amen.

Thursday, June 25

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 107:1-9

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

“O give thanks to the LORD who is good,
whose faithful love endures forever.”

Let the redeemed of the LORD say this,
those redeemed from the hand of the foe,
and gathered from far-off lands,
from east and west, north and south.

They wandered in a barren desert,
finding no way to a city they could dwell in.
Hungry they were and thirsty;
their soul was fainting within them.

Then they cried to the LORD in their need,
and God rescued them from their distress,
guiding them along a straight path,
to reach a city they could dwell in.

Let them give thanks for the love of the LORD,
such wonders for the human race:
God satisfies the thirsty soul,
and fills the hungry with good things.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Tobit 13:5-6b

God] will afflict you for your iniquities, / but will have mercy on all of you. / He will gather you from all the nations / among whom you have been scattered.

When you turn back to him with all your heart, / and with all your soul do what is right before him, / Then he will turn to you, / and will hide his face from you no longer.

Now consider what he has done for you, / and give thanks with full voice. / Bless the Lord of righteousness, / and exalt the King of the ages.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

In the land of my exile I praise the Lord.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Living God, your love endures forever. With hope in you we pray: **R.** Help us, God our savior.

Satisfy our desire to understand, live, and love your word. **R.**

Loosen our tendencies toward perfectionism, and strengthen us to be patient and loving toward one another. **R.**

Comfort and aid those whose lives have been changed because of disaster, war, or violence. **R.**

Our Father . . .

May God strengthen us and guard us in peace, in Jesus our hope. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

St. Febronia

Martyr (ca. 304)

According to legend, St. Febronia of Nisibis (in Mesopotamia), a beautiful young woman, was raised in the convent where her aunt served as abbess. Exceptionally intelligent, Febronia soon became famous for her exposition of Scripture. Important women of the town would gather to hear her commentary, though her aunt, eager to protect her from the world, made sure that she was veiled from sight.

During the persecution under the emperor Diocletian, soldiers arrived to suppress the convent. Febronia, who remained alone while the others fled, was arrested and brought to trial. Asked whether she was freeborn or a slave, she called herself a slave. Whose slave? She replied, "I am a servant of the Lord." Asked for her name, she answered, "The poor Christian woman."

The rest of the interrogation proceeded along these lines. Nevertheless, the judge was so impressed by her beauty that he offered to spare her life if she would renounce her religion and marry. In reply, Febronia insisted that she already had "an indissoluble bridal chamber in the heavens that is not made by hands, and a dowry which is the Kingdom of the heaven, and a deathless Bridegroom."

She was subsequently condemned to death. First, however, she was stripped and subjected to grotesque tortures, so terrible that the crowd begged for mercy. Finally, the judge allowed her to be beheaded.

"Do not be deceived; neither labor to test me with flatteries and threats, for you will never defeat me."

—St. Febronia

Mass

Thursday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 28 (27):8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, / a saving refuge
for the one he has anointed. / Save your people, Lord, and
bless your heritage, / and govern them for ever.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
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.

A reading from the second Book of Kings

24:8-17

*The king of Babylon also led captive to Babylon Jehoiachin
and the chief men of the land.*

Jehoiachin was eighteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned three months in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Nehushta, daughter of Elnathan of Jerusalem. He did evil in the sight of the LORD, just as his forebears had done.

At that time the officials of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, attacked Jerusalem, and the city came under siege. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, himself arrived at the city while his servants were besieging it. Then Jehoiachin, king of Judah, together with his mother, his ministers, officers, and functionaries, surrendered to the king of Babylon, who, in the eighth year of his reign, took him captive. And he carried off all the treasures of the temple of the LORD and

those of the palace, and broke up all the gold utensils that Solomon, king of Israel, had provided in the temple of the LORD, as the LORD had foretold. He deported all Jerusalem: all the officers and men of the army, ten thousand in number, and all the craftsmen and smiths. None were left among the people of the land except the poor. He deported Jehoiachin to Babylon, and also led captive from Jerusalem to Babylon the king's mother and wives, his functionaries, and the chief men of the land. The king of Babylon also led captive to Babylon all seven thousand men of the army, and a thousand craftsmen and smiths, all of them trained soldiers. In place of Jehoiachin, the king of Babylon appointed his uncle Mattaniah king, and changed his name to Zedekiah.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9

R. (9) For the glory of your name, O Lord, deliver us.

O God, the nations have come into your inheritance;
 they have defiled your holy temple,
 they have laid Jerusalem in ruins.

They have given the corpses of your servants
 as food to the birds of heaven,
 the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the
 earth. **R.**

They have poured out their blood like water
 round about Jerusalem,
 and there is no one to bury them.

We have become the reproach of our neighbors,
 the scorn and derision of those around us.

O LORD, how long? Will you be angry forever?
 Will your jealousy burn like fire? **R.**

Remember not against us the iniquities of the past;
may your compassion quickly come to us,
for we are brought very low. **R.**

Help us, O God our savior,
because of the glory of your name;
Deliver us and pardon our sins
for your name's sake. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 14:23

Whoever loves me will keep my word,
and my Father will love him
and we will come to him.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

7:21-29

The house built on rock and the house built on sand.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?' Then I will declare to them solemnly, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.'

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise and grant that, cleansed by its action, we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 145 (144):15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, / and you give them their food in due season.

Or:

John 10:11, 15

I am the Good Shepherd, / and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son, we ask of your mercy, O Lord, that what we celebrate with constant devotion may be our sure pledge of redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Our House

With the words of their wedding vows still echoing in their hearts, they moved into the little house.

Those first years were hard. The mortgage was a stretch. The “décor” consisted of a dining room table, a mattress (on the floor), and a couple of futons. But they worked hard repainting and restoring the little house, fitting in projects around their busy schedules at the careers they were establishing. They were exhausted but happy—more so as they gratefully welcomed the births of their three children.

The little house became the gathering place for Christmas dinners and birthday parties. It was the place where the drama of growing up played out, where life’s most joyous milestones were celebrated, where the hardest struggles were worked through.

The kids are now grown and settled in their own homes, but they come back often with their sons and daughters to that little house, where Gramps and Nana welcome them.

For, in this little house, God lives.

It is the house Jesus describes in today’s Gospel. Such a house is not built in a few months and is not simply the product of detailed blueprints or trendy decorating ideas. Such a house is built over a lifetime—several lifetimes, really. Its foundation is the vows to love, honor, and cherish forever; these vows are the hearth that warms the heart and spirit, the roof that protects loved ones from every wind and rain, the cool porch where all find shade from the scorching sun.

May the love of God be the foundation on which your little house peacefully rests.

Deacon Jay Cormier

Jay Cormier, a deacon serving in the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire, is author of The Deacon’s Ministry of the Word (Liturgical Press) and editor and publisher of Connections.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 89:2-8, 16-17

I will sing of your faithful love, O LORD, forever;
through all ages my mouth will proclaim your fidelity.
I have declared your faithful love is established forever;
your fidelity stands firm as the heavens.

“With my chosen one I have made a covenant;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your descendants forever,
and set up your throne through all ages.”

The heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your fidelity, too, in the assembly of your holy ones.
For who in the skies can compare with the LORD,
or who is like the LORD among the heavenly powers?
A God to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
great and awesome above all around him.

How blessed the people who know your praise,
who walk, O LORD, in the light of your face,
who find their joy every day in your name,
who make your righteousness their joyful acclaim.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Romans 10:13-17

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

But how can they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how can they believe in him of whom they

have not heard? And how can they hear without someone to preach? And how can people preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring [the] good news!” But not everyone has heeded the good news; for Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what was heard from us?” Thus faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today’s Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Those who hear my words and act on them will live.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Eternal God of merciful love, you are faithful from age to age. In faith we pray: **R**. God, in your wisdom, hear our prayer.

For Pope Francis and bishops, pastors and directors of pastoral care, lay leaders and catechists, we pray: **R**.

For camp counselors and leaders, athletic coaches and parents, youth ministers and assistants, we pray: **R**.

For those who illuminate manuscripts, translate Scripture, or edit spiritual publications, we pray: **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God direct our hearts to the peace of Christ and lead us to live in love, by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday, June 26

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 14:1-4, 7

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

The foolish have said in their hearts,
“There is no God.”
Their deeds are corrupt, depraved;
no one does any good.

The LORD looks down from heaven
on the human race,
to see if any are wise,
if any seek God.

All have gone astray,
depraved, every one;
there is no one who does any good;
no, not even one.

Do none of the evildoers understand?
They eat up my people as if eating bread;
they never call out to the LORD.

Oh, that the rescue of Israel might come from Zion.
When the LORD brings about the people’s return,
then Jacob will be glad and Israel rejoice.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Baruch 2:29-33

If you do not listen to my voice, surely this great and numerous throng will dwindle away among the nations to

which I will scatter them. For I know they will not listen to me, because they are a stiff-necked people. But in the land of their exile they shall have a change of heart; they shall know that I, the LORD, am their God. I will give them a heart and ears that listen; and they shall praise me in the land of their exile, and shall remember my name. Then they shall turn back from their stiff-necked stubbornness, and from their evil deeds, because they shall remember the ways of their ancestors, who sinned against the LORD.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

We are brought low because we did not listen to the Lord.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, your faithful love extends throughout the universe.
We rejoice in your care and pray: **R7.** God of peace, bless us.

Transform our society into a place of respect for the unborn and the most vulnerable. **R7.**

Protect public servants who work dangerous jobs. **R7.**

Provide for those who need assistance with health care or have other financial concerns. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with peace and attune our hearts and ears to the Gospel, through Jesus our saving help. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Hans Urs von Balthasar

Theologian (1905–1988)

Hans Urs von Balthasar, a Swiss theologian, never held an academic post. Alone among the great theologians of his generation, he was not invited to participate in Vatican II. Yet, in his massive output, he played an enormous role in shifting the axis of Catholic theology.

Before joining the Jesuits in 1929 he had already earned a doctorate in literature. Bored by lectures in neoscholastic theology, he found himself engaged by his reading of the Church Fathers, and later by the Swiss Reformed theologian Karl Barth. A third great influence came from his encounters with a woman doctor and mystic, Adrienne von Speyr, whom he had received into the Church and whom he came to regard as his theological partner and, indeed, teacher. With her he wished to found a Secular Institute to bridge the gap between the religious and lay states. When his superiors would not support this project, he resigned from the Jesuits and became a diocesan priest.

His most significant work was an enormous trilogy of many volumes, tracing God's relation to creation in the converging lines of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. He called his work a "kneeling theology," indicating its relation to contemplative prayer as opposed to a merely academic or "sitting" theology.

In 1988 Pope John Paul II asked him to become a cardinal. He died two days before the ceremony on June 26, 1988.

"God deserves more love than the world gives him. Men, too, need more love than they receive from the world. Our community wants to take her place where these two needs meet."

—Hans Urs von Balthasar

Mass

Friday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 28 (27):8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, / a saving refuge
for the one he has anointed. / Save your people, Lord, and
bless your heritage, / and govern them for ever.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
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.

A reading from the second Book of Kings

25:1-12

Thus was Judah exiled from her land (2 Kings 25:21).

In the tenth month of the ninth year of Zedekiah's reign,
on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar, king of
Babylon, and his whole army advanced against Jerusalem,
encamped around it, and built siege walls on every side.
The siege of the city continued until the eleventh year of
Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month, when
famine had gripped the city, and the people had no more
bread, the city walls were breached. Then the king and all
the soldiers left the city by night through the gate between
the two walls that was near the king's garden. Since the
Chaldeans had the city surrounded, they went in the direc-
tion of the Arabah. But the Chaldean army pursued the
king and overtook him in the desert near Jericho, aban-
doned by his whole army.

The king was therefore arrested and brought to Riblah to the king of Babylon, who pronounced sentence on him. He had Zedekiah's sons slain before his eyes. Then he blinded Zedekiah, bound him with fetters, and had him brought to Babylon.

On the seventh day of the fifth month (this was in the nineteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon), Nebuzaradan, captain of the bodyguard, came to Jerusalem as the representative of the king of Babylon. He burned the house of the LORD, the palace of the king, and all the houses of Jerusalem; every large building was destroyed by fire. Then the Chaldean troops who were with the captain of the guard tore down the walls that surrounded Jerusalem.

Then Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, led into exile the last of the people remaining in the city, and those who had deserted to the king of Babylon, and the last of the artisans. But some of the country's poor, Nebuzaradan, captain of the guard, left behind as vinedressers and farmers.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R7. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon
 we sat and wept
 when we remembered Zion.
 On the aspens of that land
 we hung up our harps. **R7.**

Though there our captors asked of us
 the lyrics of our songs,
 And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:
 "Sing for us the songs of Zion!" **R7.**

How could we sing a song of the LORD
in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,
may my right hand be forgotten! *R.*

May my tongue cleave to my palate
if I remember you not,

If I place not Jerusalem
ahead of my joy. *R.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 8:17

Christ took away our infirmities
and bore our diseases.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

8:1-4

If you wish, you can make me clean.

When Jesus came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him. And then a leper approached, did him homage, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean." He stretched out his hand, touched him, and said, "I will do it. Be made clean." His leprosy was cleansed immediately. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one, but go show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise
and grant that, cleansed by its action,

we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 145 (144):15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, / and you give them their food in due season.

Or:

John 10:11, 15

I am the Good Shepherd, / and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Holding Onto Hope

A leper approached him, and said, "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean."

Unless you take this little book of the Gospel in your hands with the determination of a person who is holding onto his very last hope, you will neither be able to figure it out, nor receive its message.

If you are fortunate enough to be in such despair, to be so bereft of all human hope, it matters little whether you pick up the book from the shelves of a vast library, from the pocket of your workman's vest, or from your school backpack; whether during a retreat, or just any old day; whether in a church or in your kitchen, out in the field or in your office—

just as you take hold of the book, so will it take hold of you. Its words, which are spirit, will penetrate into you like seeds in the earth, like leaven in bread, like trees in the sky. And if you yield yourself up to these words, you yourself will become simply a new expression of them. . . .

But the Gospel is not just one book among others. It is not just one human word among others. It is the spoken Word of God. It is the Word of God spoken in Christ, whose life we contemplate and recount.

The Gospel has the power to enlighten and transform; it is a permanent and powerful gift from God. And like all of God's gifts, it is poured out only into the hands of faith; it can be received only in the . . . depths of hope.

For the Gospel to reveal its mystery, no special setting, no advanced education, no particular technique is required. All it needs is a soul bowed down in adoration and a heart stripped of all trust in things human.

----- Madeleine Delbr el, *We, the Ordinary People of the Streets*

Madeleine Delbr el (1904–1964), a French laywoman and social worker, was an award-winning poet and writer whose life and work have been compared to St. Joan of Arc, St. Th r se of Lisieux, and Dorothy Day.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 78:1-7

Give ear, my people, to my teaching;
incline your ear to the words of my mouth.
I will open my mouth in a parable
and utter hidden lessons of the past.

The things we have heard and understood,
the things our parents have told us,
these we will not hide from our children
but will tell them to the next generation:
the glories and the might of the LORD,
and the marvelous deeds that have been done.

God established a decree in Jacob,
and set up a law in Israel.
Our forebears were given a command
to make it known to their children,
that the next generation might know it,
the children yet to be born.

They should arise and declare it to their children,
that they should set their hope in God,
and never forget God's deeds,
but keep every one of the commandments.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and God of all encouragement,
who encourages us in our every affliction, so that we may be

able to encourage those who are in any affliction with the encouragement with which we ourselves are encouraged by God. For as Christ's sufferings overflow to us, so through Christ does our encouragement also overflow. If we are afflicted, it is for your encouragement and salvation; if we are encouraged, it is for your encouragement, which enables you to endure the same sufferings that we suffer. Our hope for you is firm, for we know that as you share in the sufferings, you also share in the encouragement.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of the covenant, you form your Church as a people in Christ. Mindful of your Spirit, we pray: **R7.** Make us one in the love of Jesus, O God.

Unite Christians in efforts to feed the hungry, ensure clean water for all, and care for the needs of the poor. **R7.**

Sensitize us to the cares of the elderly, the visually and hearing impaired, and those who live with a disability. **R7.**

Bring all people together at the heavenly banquet table, and let us know everlasting joy in your holy presence. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God grant us to comprehend the breadth and length, height and depth of Christ's love for us, by the Spirit of God. Amen.

Saturday, June 27

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 101:1-3a, 7-8

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

I sing of faithful love and justice;
I raise a psalm to you, O LORD.
I will ponder the way of the blameless.
O when will you come to me?

I will walk with blameless heart
within my house;
I will not set before my eyes
whatever is base.

No one who practices deceit
shall live within my house.
No one who utters lies
shall stand before my eyes.

Morning by morning I will subdue
all the wicked in the land,
uprooting from the city of the LORD
all who do evil.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 29:10-14a

T]hus says the LORD: Only after seventy years have elapsed for Babylon will I deal with you and fulfill for you my promise to bring you back to this place. For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—

plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me—oracle of the LORD—and I will change your lot.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

There is hope for your future; I will gather you together and bring you home.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God, in Jesus you encourage us to pray to you in faith. With trust we pray: **R7.** Lead us along the path of life, O God.

Open our minds and hearts to the Scriptures, and inspire us to take time for spiritual reading and prayer. **R7.**

Uphold efforts to curb gun violence, and heal those who suffer loss due to abuse of firearms. **R7.**

Help us to show appreciation to our family members and friends, teachers and mentors, neighbors and coworkers. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God draw near to us in our seeking, heal us in our longing, and encourage us in our living, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Blessed Madeleine Fontaine and Companions Martyrs (d. 1794)

Madeleine Fontaine was superior of a small community of Daughters of Charity in the town of Arras, France. The sisters maintained a dispensary and a school for girls and otherwise spent their time visiting the poor. Nevertheless, during the Terror of the Revolution, these sisters—who had, in the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, dedicated their lives to the poor—would find themselves charged as enemies of the people.

For some time they were ignored. Even after their school was seized and renamed from the House of Charity to the House of Humanity, the sisters were allowed to continue with their nursing. In 1794, however, a zealous ex-priest, Joseph Lebon, arrived in town to implement the strict decrees of the Revolution. Claiming to have found counter-revolutionary literature in their home, he had the sisters arrested. When they refused to take an oath recognizing the supremacy of the revolutionary state, they were tried and sentenced to death.

On June 27, four sisters went to the guillotine singing *Ave Maris Stella*. Mother Madeleine was the last to die. In a remarkable scene, she turned to the silent crowd and proclaimed the words cited below. Soon after, Mother Madeleine's prophecy would be fulfilled when both Joseph Lebon and Maximilien Robespierre, architect of the Terror, were arrested.

Madeleine Fontaine and her companions were beatified in 1920.

“Listen, Christians! We are the last victims. The persecution is going to stop. The gallows will be destroyed. The altars of Jesus will rise again gloriously.”

—Blessed Madeleine Fontaine

Mass

Saturday of the Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

[*St. Cyril of Alexandria, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 28 (27):8-9

The Lord is the strength of his people, / a saving refuge
for the one he has anointed. / Save your people, Lord, and
bless your heritage, / and govern them for ever.

COLLECT

Grant, O Lord,
that we may always revere and love your holy name,
for you never deprive of your guidance
those you set firm on the foundation of your love.
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.

A reading from the Book of Lamentations 2:2, 10-14, 18-19

Cry out to the Lord over the fortresses of daughter Zion.

The Lord has consumed without pity / all the dwellings
of Jacob; / He has torn down in his anger / the for-
tresses of daughter Judah; / He has brought to the ground
in dishonor / her king and her princes.

On the ground in silence sit / the old men of daughter
Zion; / They strew dust on their heads / and gird themselves
with sackcloth; / The maidens of Jerusalem / bow their
heads to the ground.

Worn out from weeping are my eyes, / within me all is
in ferment; / My gall is poured out on the ground / because
of the downfall of the daughter of my people, / As child and
infant faint away / in the open spaces of the town.

In vain they ask their mothers, / “Where is the grain?” /
As they faint away like the wounded / in the streets of the
city, / And breathe their last / in their mothers’ arms.

To what can I liken or compare you, / O daughter Jeru-
salem? / What example can I show you for your comfort, /
virgin daughter Zion? / For great as the sea is your downfall;
/ who can heal you?

Your prophets had for you / false and specious visions;
/ They did not lay bare your guilt, / to avert your fate; / They
beheld for you in vision / false and misleading portents.

Cry out to the Lord; / moan, O daughter Zion! / Let your
tears flow like a torrent / day and night; / Let there be no
respite for you, / no repose for your eyes.

Rise up, shrill in the night, / at the beginning of every
watch; / Pour out your heart like water / in the presence of the
Lord; / Lift up your hands to him / for the lives of your little
ones / Who faint from hunger / at the corner of every street.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21

R7. (19b) Lord, forget not the souls of your poor ones.

Why, O God, have you cast us off forever?

Why does your anger smolder against the sheep of
your pasture?

Remember your flock which you built up of old,
the tribe you redeemed as your inheritance,
Mount Zion, where you took up your abode. **R7.**

Turn your steps toward the utter ruins;
toward all the damage the enemy has done in the
sanctuary.

Your foes roar triumphantly in your shrine;
they have set up their tokens of victory.

They are like men coming up with axes to a clump of
trees. **R7.**

With chisel and hammer they hack at all the paneling of
the sanctuary.

They set your sanctuary on fire;
the place where your name abides they have razed and
profaned. **R7.**

Look to your covenant,
for the hiding places in the land and the plains are full
of violence.

May the humble not retire in confusion;
may the afflicted and the poor praise your name. **R7.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 8:17

Christ took away our infirmities
and bore our diseases.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

8:5-17

*Many will come from east and west and will recline
with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.*

When Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion approached him and appealed to him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, suffering dreadfully." He said to him, "I will come and cure him." The centurion said in reply, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed. For I too am a man subject to authority, with sol-

diers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Amen, I say to you, in no one in Israel have I found such faith. I say to you, many will come from the east and the west, and will recline with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the banquet in the Kingdom of heaven, but the children of the Kingdom will be driven out into the outer darkness, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth." And Jesus said to the centurion, "You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you." And at that very hour his servant was healed.

Jesus entered the house of Peter, and saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand, the fever left her, and she rose and waited on him.

When it was evening, they brought him many who were possessed by demons, and he drove out the spirits by a word and cured all the sick, to fulfill what had been said by Isaiah the prophet: / *He took away our infirmities / and bore our diseases.*

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Receive, O Lord, the sacrifice of conciliation and praise
and grant that, cleansed by its action,
we may make offering of a heart pleasing to you.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Psalm 145 (144):15

The eyes of all look to you, Lord, / and you give them
their food in due season.

Or:

John 10:11, 15

I am the Good Shepherd, / and I lay down my life for my sheep, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Renewed and nourished
by the Sacred Body and Precious Blood of your Son,
we ask of your mercy, O Lord,
that what we celebrate with constant devotion
may be our sure pledge of redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Miracles Happen

“He died last night. I knew it was coming, but I didn’t know it would hurt so much. I’m losing my grip. Can you come over?”

What do you do in the face of such loss? Some console the bereaved with a hearty casserole. The leaning tower of Tupperware in the fridge is a testimony to the miracle that happens through the generosity of those who empathize with our grief.

Healing miracles in Matthew are a serious matter. They point beyond themselves to Jesus’ messianic power over evil, confirming God as the source of healing. We open ourselves to this same power when we express our need with the confidence that God is still at work in those who care.

We expect a centurion, armored with authority, to be self-sufficient, not dependent and vulnerable. What makes him a model of faith is his candor in expressing what he needs

and his conviction about a solution. He is not going to let this opportunity for healing get by.

Miracles happen and healing occurs when humility opens us to the power of God at work in those who generously serve us during times of need. We honor the dignity of another in need by paying a visit, making a casserole, and sitting at their table of loneliness.

We recite a version of the centurion's words before receiving Communion in our eucharistic liturgy. Each time we do, we express our humility, acknowledge our dependence, and open ourselves to the healing power of Jesus—who is still alive in his Spirit and at work in the magnanimity of those reaching out to us.

Fr. Richard M. Gula

Richard M. Gula, PSS, taught in seminaries and ministry formation programs for many years. He is presently director of personnel for the U.S. Province of the Sulpicians.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 145:10-11, 13-16, 21

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

All your works shall thank you, O LORD,
and all your faithful ones bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your reign,
and declare your mighty deeds.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom;
your rule endures for all generations.

You are faithful, LORD, in all your words,
and holy in all your deeds.

You, LORD, support all who fall,
and raise up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing.

Let my mouth speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless the holy name
forever, for ages unending.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 3:14-16

I am writing you about these matters, although I hope to visit you soon. But if I should be delayed, you should know how to behave in the household of God, which is the

church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of truth. Undeniably great is the mystery of devotion, / Who was manifested in the flesh, / vindicated in the spirit, / seen by angels, / proclaimed to the Gentiles, / believed in throughout the world, / taken up in glory.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

As you have believed, let it be done for you.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Generous God, you lavish your love upon us and fill us with every blessing and grace. In faith we pray: **R7.** Favor us with your mercy, O God.

Renew hope and trust in those who have suffered betrayal, abuse, or trauma. **R7.**

Grant perseverance and patience to those who are beginning a new job, transitioning to a new place, or giving up a familiar lifestyle. **R7.**

Give peace to those who fear death, and bless all those who accompany the dying. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with peace and grant all that we ask in faith, through Jesus our brother. Amen.



Sunday, June 28

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 150

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

Alleluia!

Praise God in the holy temple;
praise the Lord in the mighty firmament.
Praise God for powerful deeds;
for boundless grandeur, praise God.

O praise the Lord with sound of trumpet;
give praise with lute and harp.
Praise God with timbrel and dance;
give praise with strings and pipes.

O praise God with resounding cymbals;
give praise with clashing of cymbals.
Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Alleluia!

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 30:18-20

Truly, the LORD is waiting to be gracious to you, / truly,
he shall rise to show you mercy; / For the LORD is a God
of justice: / happy are all who wait for him! / Yes, people of
Zion, dwelling in Jerusalem, / you shall no longer weep; /
He will be most gracious to you when you cry out; / as soon

as he hears he will answer you. / The Lord will give you bread in adversity / and water in affliction. / No longer will your Teacher hide himself, / but with your own eyes you shall see your Teacher.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too will live in newness of life.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of the living, you give everything breath to praise you. In faith we pray: **R7.** Gracious God, in your mercy, hear and answer us.

Instruct and inform your Church's understanding and reception of the sacraments, and deepen our sacramental view of creation. **R7.**

Refresh catechists, teachers, and parish staff with time for rest and renewal. **R7.**

Inspire us to include the homebound in our prayer and in parish life. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the peace of the Risen Lord fill our hearts with rejoicing, now and always. Amen.

Mass

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Psalm 47 (46):2

All peoples, clap your hands. / Cry to God with shouts of joy!

GLORIA (p. 330)

COLLECT

O God, who through the grace of adoption chose us to be children of light, grant, we pray, that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth. 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.

A reading from the second Book of Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

Elisha is a holy man of God, let him remain.

One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight.

Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?" His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes! She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years." Elisha said, "Call her." When the

woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, “This time next year you will be fondling a baby son.”
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19

R7. (2a) Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord.

The promises of the LORD I will sing forever,
through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your
faithfulness.

For you have said, “My kindness is established forever”;
in heaven you have confirmed your faithfulness. **R7.**

Blessed the people who know the joyful shout;
in the light of your countenance, O LORD, they walk.
At your name they rejoice all the day,
and through your justice they are exalted. **R7.**

You are the splendor of their strength,
and by your favor our horn is exalted.
For to the LORD belongs our shield,
and to the Holy One of Israel, our king. **R7.**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

6:3-4, 8-11

*Buried with Christ in baptism,
we shall walk in the newness of life.*

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As

to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

1 Peter 2:9

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; announce the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

10:37-42

Whoever does not take up his cross is not worthy of me.

Whoever receives you, receives me.

Jesus said to his apostles: “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward. And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 331)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who graciously accomplish
the effects of your mysteries,
grant, we pray,
that the deeds by which we serve you
may be worthy of these sacred gifts.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 103 (102):1

Bless the Lord, O my soul, / and all within me, his holy
name.

Or:

John 17:20-21

O Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, /
that the world may believe that you have sent me, says the
Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received
fill us with life, O Lord, we pray,
so that, bound to you in lasting charity,
we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A True Dwelling Place

Even by conservative estimates, there are upwards of 70 million people around the world today who have been forced to leave their homes due to war, poverty, threats of violence, and other catastrophes. A concern for these people has been a defining mark of Pope Francis's pontificate. Last fall, at the

unveiling of a life-size sculpture of migrants and refugees in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis insisted that as Christians, "we cannot remain insensitive, our hearts deadened, before the misery of so many innocent people."

The rising tide of nationalism around the world seems to have made it more difficult for us to take the Holy Father's words to heart. We fear the impact of these desperate millions on our culture, economics, and politics. I know deacons and priests who, having preached on the subject, have had congregants walk out during their homilies or received angry letters afterward.

Such a reaction is often a "prophet's reward." As Jesus suggests today, the radicalism of the Gospel may lead us into solidarity with those who are outside the bonds of family, tribe, and nation. Such solidarity may be costly and demand risk and change on our part. But our Lord does not promise a settled and comfortable life. He calls us to take up the cross and follow after him.

The woman from Shunem can show us the way. Going beyond the bounds of normal hospitality, she creates a true dwelling for the prophetic Word, allowing it to transform her everyday life. The result is a blessing beyond her expectations.

J. Peter Nixon

J. Peter Nixon is a regular contributor to Give Us This Day. He holds a master's degree in theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 116:1-9

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

I love the LORD who has heard
my voice, my appeal;
For God has turned an ear to me
whenever I call.

They surrounded me, the snares of death;
the anguish of Sheol has found me;
anguish and sorrow I found.
I called on the name of the LORD:
“Deliver my soul, O LORD!”

How gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God has compassion.
The LORD protects the simple;
I was brought low, and was saved.

Turn back, my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has been good to you,
God has kept my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 2:6-7, 9-10, 12

As you received Christ Jesus the Lord, walk in him,
rooted in him and built upon him and established in
the faith as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

For in him dwells the whole fullness of the deity bodily, and you share in this fullness in him, who is the head of every principality and power. You were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

We were buried with Christ through baptism so that we too might live in newness of life.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Righteous God, you lead your Church to newness of life in Christ Jesus. In hope we pray: **R7.** God of the living, hear our prayer.

Strengthen your Church's efforts to inspire young people to know and live their faith. **R7.**

Lead adolescents to know their gifts and find support for their interests. **R7.**

Bless and favor caregivers and family of those who suffer dementia or Alzheimer's. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God lead us to know the fullness of joy in his presence and raise us to new life in Christ. Amen.

June 28–30

Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time

Within the Word

Peter and Paul: Faithful Contrasts

Peter and Paul might be surprised to see how Christians throughout the centuries have linked them as *the* two great pillars of the Church. Peter symbolizes the power of authority and the mission to the Jewish believers, while Paul, seen as the greatest early missionary, represents the extraordinary spread of faith to the Gentiles.

The Church of Rome has claimed these two men as its founding apostles since traditions say both were martyred there during Nero's persecution (ca. AD 64–67). Both Peter and Paul are said to be buried in Rome, beneath the basilicas that bear their respective names. Yet these two first-century Jewish men could hardly have been less alike.

Peter, a Palestinian, Aramaic-speaking Jew (like Jesus) was a Galilean fisherman from Capernaum and probably not literate. His knowledge of the Hebrew Bible would have come from hearing Pharisees teaching in the local synagogue. He was married, living like most people among extended family (Luke 4:38–39). His was a fisherman's humble, rural life . . . only to be changed one day when another Galilean summoned him saying, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people" (Mark 1:17). Mark stresses the immediacy with which Peter (also called Simon Peter and Cephas) went with Jesus; later it appears Peter's wife traveled with him (1 Cor 9:5). But on that day in Capernaum did Peter have any idea his life's path was headed to Rome—and martyrdom?

Paul (Saul), in vivid contrast to Peter, was an urbanite from the vibrant Cilician city of Tarsus. He received both a Jewish

upbringing and a Gentile education, also learning his family's tentmaking trade. Knowing both Greek and Aramaic, and reading Hebrew too, Paul studied in Jerusalem with a famous Pharisee, Gamaliel. Paul was either widowed or unmarried (1 Cor 7:8). Based upon his advanced knowledge, he judged that Jesus' resurrection and his Messiahship as proclaimed by his followers did not fit the standard expectations of God's Messiah. Would the Messiah not have been a royal or priestly figure leading a fight against the Roman occupation? Besides, as a Pharisee, Paul held that all the just who had died would be raised by God, but the Jesus followers claimed he alone had been resurrected.

When Paul set out for Damascus to arrest those promoting belief in Jesus, he had no idea he would encounter the resurrected Jesus along the way. Or that Jesus would reveal himself as the Messiah who had come to free all people, both Jews and Gentiles, from a threat worse than the Romans—namely, the power of sin and evil. When Paul followed Jesus' call, like Peter, he probably did not imagine it would lead to martyrdom in Rome.

Peter's and Paul's paths, at least as far as we can piece their lives together, only occasionally crossed during their respective ministries. We see them sometimes arguing (e.g., Gal 2:11-14) and sometimes agreeing (e.g., Acts 15:1-21). In their differing ways each remained faithful in their witness to the Lord. They are a fascinating study in contrasts, yet a profound reminder of the great truth they shared: each proceeded forward along a road he could never have envisioned, faithful until the last destination.

—Florence Morgan Gillman

Florence Morgan Gillman is professor of biblical studies at the University of San Diego. The author of numerous books and articles, she lectures frequently in the U.S. and abroad.

Monday, June 29

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 80:2-3, 15-19

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
you who lead Joseph like a flock:
enthroned on the cherubim, shine forth
upon Ephraim, Benjamin, Manasseh.
Rouse up your might and come to save us.

God of hosts, turn again, we implore;
look down from heaven and see.

Visit this vine and protect it,
the stock your right hand has planted,
the one you have claimed for yourself.
They have burnt it with fire and cut it down.
May they perish at the frown of your face.

May your hand be on the one at your right hand,
the one you have confirmed as your own.
And we shall never forsake you again;
give us life that we may call upon your name.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Wisdom 5:15-19

The righteous live forever, / and in the LORD is their
recompense, / and the thought of them is with the Most
High. / Therefore shall they receive the splendid crown, /
the beautiful diadem, from the hand of the LORD, / For he

will shelter them with his right hand, / and protect them with his arm. / He shall take his zeal for armor / and arm creation to requite the enemy, / Shall put on righteousness for a breastplate, / wear sure judgment for a helmet, / Shall take invincible holiness for a shield.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear God.

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

Shepherd of Israel, as in days of old you rescued those who feared you, so too you save us in Christ Jesus. In company with Saints Peter and Paul we rejoice to pray:
R7. Strengthen our faith, O God.

Help us to pray always for the welfare of those who live in poverty, those who are afflicted in mind, body, or spirit, and those who are most vulnerable. **R7.**

Strengthen and support Christians who are persecuted for proclaiming the Gospel. **R7.**

Animate all the baptized to tell the love of Jesus and use their gifts for the glory of God. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May the example of Peter and Paul inspire us to lead others to Christ Jesus by the manner of our lives, in accordance with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Saints Peter and Paul

Apostles (First Century)

This day commemorates the two preeminent apostles of the early Church. Of the two, St. Peter was among the twelve disciples called by Jesus. Originally named Simon, Jesus gave him an Aramaic name, Cephas, meaning “Rock.” This inspired a memorable pun when Jesus told him, “You are Cephas [Peter] and upon this *rock* I will build my church.” The occasion was Jesus’ question to the disciples: “Who do you say I am?” which prompted Peter’s reply: “You are the Christ.” Peter emerges in the Gospels as a complex character, bold, impetuous, capable of fear, doubt, and childlike meekness; in short, a fully human creature. It was this “Rock” who denied Christ three times after his arrest but who later repented his betrayal and courageously assumed leadership of the early Church.

St. Paul, a devout Jew, was initially a persecutor of the Church. But after receiving a dazzling vision of the Risen Lord, he was convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. He went on to become a zealous missionary and servant of the Gospel. His letters to the early Christian communities became foundational documents for the early Church. By providing a theological rationale for the universality of the Gospel he was largely responsible for extending the Church to the wider Gentile world. He suffered persecution in many forms and was eventually martyred in Rome, where Peter, too, suffered the same fate.

“Lord, who shall we go to? You have the message of eternal life and we believe.”

—St. Peter (John 6:68-69)

“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”

—St. Paul (Galatians 2:19-20)

Mass

Saints Peter and Paul, Solemnity

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

These are the ones who, living in the flesh, / planted the Church with their blood; / they drank the chalice of the Lord / and became the friends of God.

GLORIA (p. 330)

COLLECT

O God, who on the Solemnity of the Apostles Peter and Paul give us the noble and holy joy of this day, grant, we pray, that your Church may in all things follow the teaching of those through whom she received the beginnings of right religion.

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.

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

12:1-11

Now I know for certain that the Lord rescued me from the hand of Herod.

In those days, King Herod laid hands upon some members of the Church to harm them. He had James, the brother of John, killed by the sword, and when he saw that this was pleasing to the Jews he proceeded to arrest Peter also.—It was the feast of Unleavened Bread.—He had him taken into custody and put in prison under the guard of four squads of four soldiers each. He intended to bring him before the people after Passover. Peter thus was being kept in prison,

but prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God on his behalf.

On the very night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter, secured by double chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while outside the door guards kept watch on the prison. Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, "Get up quickly." The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, "Put on your belt and your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Put on your cloak and follow me." So he followed him out, not realizing that what was happening through the angel was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first guard, then the second, and came to the iron gate leading out to the city, which opened for them by itself. They emerged and made their way down an alley, and suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter recovered his senses and said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people had been expecting."

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R. (5) The angel of the Lord will rescue those who fear him.

I will bless the LORD at all times;
 his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
 Let my soul glory in the LORD;
 the lowly will hear me and be glad. **R.**

Glorify the LORD with me,
 let us together extol his name.
 I sought the LORD, and he answered me
 and delivered me from all my fears. **R.**

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
 and your faces may not blush with shame.
 When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
 and from all his distress he saved him. **R̄.**

The angel of the LORD encamps
 around those who fear him, and delivers them.
 Taste and see how good the LORD is;
 blessed the man who takes refuge in him. **R̄.**

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul
 to Timothy

4:6-8, 17-18

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me.

I, Paul, am already being poured out like a libation, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. From now on the crown of righteousness awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who have longed for his appearance.

The Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil threat and will bring me safe to his heavenly Kingdom. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Matthew 16:18

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church,
 and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail
 against it.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

16:13-19

*You are Peter, and I will give you the keys
to the Kingdom of heaven.*

When Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter said in reply, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus said to him in reply, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the Kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

CREED (p. 331)

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the prayer of the Apostles, O Lord,
accompany the sacrificial gift
that we present to your name for consecration,
and may their intercession make us devoted to you
in celebration of the sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Matthew 16:16, 18

Peter said to Jesus: You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. / And Jesus replied: You are Peter, / and upon this rock I will build my Church.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant us, O Lord,
 who have been renewed by this Sacrament,
 so to live in the Church,
 that, persevering in the breaking of the Bread
 and in the teaching of the Apostles,
 we may be one heart and one soul,
 made steadfast in your love.
 Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Stable and Strong

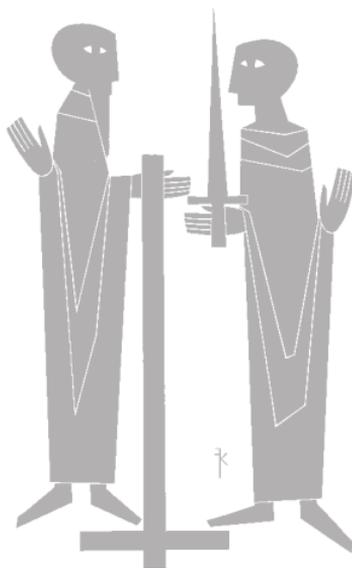
These are the two pillars that our peacemaker Jesus put up in construction of his church. We read that Solomon put up two bronze [pillars] as a type of these at the entrance of Jerusalem's temple [cf. 1 Kg 7:15, 21]. And Scripture says, *But after he had put up the pillar on the right, he named it Jachin, that is, stability.* This is the stability of the faith that Peter first confessed, on which Christ built the church. Though winds may whip and rivers flood, they will not be able to move it, for it was established on stable rock [cf. Mt 7:25]. From this rock Peter got his name when Jesus said, *You are Peter, and I will build my church on this rock* [Mt 16:18].

And when he had set up the second pillar, it says, he called it Boaz, that is, in power [1 Kg 7:21]. Hear, if you will, of this pillar, which is made not of reeds, but of bronze; strong in its power, firm at its foundation. Neither can the storm of adversity knock it down nor the allurements of prosperity dissolve it into a liquid. *I have learned to be satisfied*, [Paul] says, *with whatever state I find myself in. I know how to be humble,*

and I know how to live in abundance. Everywhere and in all things I have been trained: to be full, to hunger, to abound, and to suffer want. I can do all things in the one who gives me strength [Phil 4:11-13]. Behold a soldier of the heavenly encampment.

St. Aelred of Rievaulx, *Sermon on the Feast of the Apostles Peter and Paul*

*Aelred of Rievaulx (1109–1167) entered the Cistercian monastery of Rievaulx around 1133 and later became abbot. A master of the spiritual life, his most important works include *The Mirror of Charity and Spiritual Friendship*.*



Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

PSALM 20

May the LORD answer you in time of trial;
may the name of Jacob's God protect you,
sending you help from the holy place,
and giving you support from Zion.

May God remember all your offerings,
receive your sacrifice with favor,
give you your heart's desire,
and fulfill every one of your plans.

May we ring out our joy at your victory,
and raise banners in the name of our God.
May the LORD grant all your prayers.

Now I know the anointed one is saved by the LORD,
who answers from the holy heavens
with the right hand of victory and might.

Some put their trust in chariots or horses,
but we in the name of the LORD, our God.
They will collapse and fall,
but we shall rise up and hold firm.
Grant salvation to the king, O LORD,
give answer on the day we call.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Galatians 2:7b-10

When they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter to the circumcised,

for the one who worked in Peter for an apostolate to the circumcised worked also in me for the Gentiles, and when they recognized the grace bestowed upon me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave me and Barnabas their right hands in partnership, that we should go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. Only, we were to be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of all praise and thanksgiving, through the apostles Peter and Paul we have come to know Christ's saving power. In faith we pray: **R7.** Teach us your wisdom, O God.

Help us to be mindful always of the needs of the poor, the oppressed, and all who suffer unjust treatment. **R7.**

Lead all Christians to radiate the beauty of your mercy and forgiveness, your truth and love. **R7.**

Inspire us to know the brevity of life and to live our days in peace and gratitude. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May we prefer nothing to the love of Christ, and may he bring us together to everlasting life. Amen.

Tuesday, June 30

Morning

O Lord, open my lips.
And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

PSALM 109:1-2, 21, 24-27, 30-31

(opt. hymn, pp. 360-65)

O God whom I praise, do not be silent,
for the mouths of deceit and wickedness
are opened against me.

But you, O LORD, my Lord,
do with me as befits your name.
How good your faithful love! Deliver me.

My knees are weak from fasting;
my body is thin and gaunt.
I have become an object of scorn;
when they see me they shake their heads.

Help me, LORD my God;
save me with your faithful love.
Let them know that this is your hand,
that this is your doing, O LORD.

Loud thanks to the LORD are on my lips,
with praise in the midst of the throng,
for the Lord stands at the right hand of the poor,
to save their souls from those who condemn them.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

Job 38:1, 4-5, 8-11

Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm and said:
/ Where were you when I founded the earth? / Tell me,

if you have understanding. / Who determined its size?
Surely you know? / Who stretched out the measuring line
for it? / Who shut within doors the sea, / when it burst forth
from the womb, / When I made the clouds its garment /
and thick darkness its swaddling bands? / When I set limits
for it / and fastened the bar of its door, / And said: Thus far
shall you come but no farther, / and here shall your proud
waves stop?

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or
another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

Who is this, whom even the winds and sea obey?

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (*inside front cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of grace and glory, you enlighten our hearts and
minds by your holy word. In hope we pray: **R**. God, in
your great love, hear our prayer.

Give discernment and peace to those who seek your will
and to those who journey with them. **R**.

Uphold and prosper qualities of integrity, honesty, and
wisdom in those who seek public office. **R**.

Inspire creative use of social media for the spreading of
the Gospel. **R**.

Our Father . . .

May God increase our faith, hope, and love and lead us
along paths of peace, in Jesus our brother. Amen.

Blessed Among Us

Venerable Pierre Toussaint

Former Slave (1766–1853)

Pierre Toussaint was born in slavery on a plantation in present-day Haiti. His owners, the Berard family, anticipating the revolutionary uprising that was to come, fled to New York, taking Pierre along with them. They encouraged him to train as an apprentice hairdresser—a skilled and lucrative trade. Meanwhile, Monsieur Berard, who had returned to Haiti, died there, leaving the family penniless. At this point Pierre, though still a slave, took to supporting the Berard family through his hairdressing. He continued in this service until the death of his mistress, who left instructions that he be freed.

Pierre married another former Haitian slave, Juliette, and their home became a center for charitable work. Through his earnings, Pierre secured the freedom of many other slaves, provided for orphans, cared for victims of plague, and even extended aid to French widows impoverished by the liberation of Haiti. He was widely recognized for his piety and devotion to the Church. Among other causes, he raised money for the construction of Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, where he was buried after his death on June 30, 1853.

Pierre was declared venerable by Pope John Paul II in 1996.

“I have never felt I am a slave to any man or woman but I am a servant of the Almighty God who made us all. When one of his children is in need, I am glad to be His slave.”

—Venerable Pierre Toussaint

Mass

Tuesday of the Thirteenth Week in Ordinary Time
[*The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church, opt. memorial*]

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Psalm 47 (46):2

All peoples, clap your hands. / Cry to God with shouts
of joy!

COLLECT

O God, who through the grace of adoption
chose us to be children of light,
grant, we pray,
that we may not be wrapped in the darkness of error
but always be seen to stand in the bright light of truth.
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.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos

3:1-8; 4:11-12

The Lord GOD speaks—who will not prophesy!

Hear this word, O children of Israel, that the LORD pro-
nounces over you, over the whole family that I brought
up from the land of Egypt:

You alone have I favored, / more than all the families of
the earth; / Therefore I will punish you / for all your crimes.

Do two walk together / unless they have agreed? / Does
a lion roar in the forest / when it has no prey? / Does a young
lion cry out from its den / unless it has seized something?
/ Is a bird brought to earth by a snare / when there is no lure
for it? / Does a snare spring up from the ground / without
catching anything? / If the trumpet sounds in a city, / will
the people not be frightened? / If evil befalls a city, / has not

the LORD caused it? / Indeed, the Lord GOD does nothing / without revealing his plan / to his servants, the prophets.

The lion roars— / who will not be afraid! / The Lord GOD speaks— / who will not prophesy!

I brought upon you such upheaval / as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah: / you were like a brand plucked from the fire; / Yet you returned not to me, / says the LORD.

So now I will deal with you in my own way, O Israel! / and since I will deal thus with you, / prepare to meet your God, O Israel.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8

R. (9a) Lead me in your justice, Lord.

At dawn I bring my plea expectantly before you.
For you, O God, delight not in wickedness;
no evil man remains with you;
the arrogant may not stand in your sight. **R.**

You hate all evildoers;
you destroy all who speak falsehood;
The bloodthirsty and the deceitful
the LORD abhors. **R.**

But I, because of your abundant mercy,
will enter your house;
I will worship at your holy temple
in fear of you, O LORD. **R.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 130:5

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

8:23-27

Jesus rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm.

As Jesus got into a boat, his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" He said to them, "Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?" Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, "What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?"

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O God, who graciously accomplish
the effects of your mysteries,
grant, we pray,
that the deeds by which we serve you
may be worthy of these sacred gifts.
Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Cf. Psalm 103 (102):1

Bless the Lord, O my soul, / and all within me, his holy name.

Or:

John 17:20-21

O Father, I pray for them, that they may be one in us, / that
the world may believe that you have sent me, says the Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May this divine sacrifice we have offered and received
fill us with life, O Lord, we pray,
so that, bound to you in lasting charity,
we may bear fruit that lasts for ever.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

A Question of Faith

I am prone to hair-trigger hysteria over small things, such as worrying about ordinary malfunctions at home like appliances or plumbing. Sometimes with an actual storm raging outside, I obsess about our roof and the towering trees surrounding our home. Fretting over small things is my specialty—if it can be obsessed about in the negative, I am ready.

Flash back to the morning of September 11, 2001, when I was working in midtown Manhattan. I did not understand what happened to create all the chaos, just that it was really bad. An eerie stillness crept through midtown, and I thought it might be my last day on earth. Remarkably, I was not hysterical. No, I wasn't happy, but I felt at peace with what was in God's hands and out of my own.

That Tuesday morning—and that sense of peace and calm—always come to mind when I read today's Gospel. Who could blame the disciples for reacting as they did on the tempest-tossed sea? Yet along with rebuking the winds and the sea, Jesus admonishes the disciples for, once again, not having enough faith. The message is clear, yet we continue to ask the same question, "*What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?*" Although we have a lifetime to fully believe it, like the disciples, we are not quite there yet. As with his disciples, Jesus' momentary frustration is overridden with his faith in us. Don't we owe him the same in return?

Fran Rossi Szpylczyn

Fran Rossi Szpylczyn is a writer exploring the intersection of faith and daily life. She is contributor to the Homilists for the Homeless project and blogs at "There Will Be Bread" at breadhere.wordpress.com.

Evening

God, come to my assistance.
Lord, make haste to help me.

PSALM 131

(opt. hymn, pp. 360–65)

O LORD, my heart is not proud,
nor haughty my eyes.
I have not gone after things too great,
nor marvels beyond me.

Truly, I have set my soul
in tranquility and silence.
As a weaned child on its mother,
as a weaned child is my soul within me.

O Israel, hope in the LORD,
both now and forever.

Glory to the Father . . .

SCRIPTURE

2 Timothy 2:11-15

This saying is trustworthy: / If we have died with him / we shall also live with him; / if we persevere / we shall also reign with him. / But if we deny him / he will deny us. / If we are unfaithful / he remains faithful, / for he cannot deny himself.

Remind people of these things and charge them before God to stop disputing about words. This serves no useful purpose since it harms those who listen. Be eager to present yourself as acceptable to God, a workman who causes no disgrace, imparting the word of truth without deviation.

READ, PONDER, PRAY on a word or phrase from these readings or another of today's Scriptures (*Lectio Divina*, p. 359)

ANTIPHON

You alone have I known among all the families of the earth.

CANTICLE OF MARY (*inside back cover*)

INTERCESSIONS

God of our hope, we place our trust in you and pray: **R7.**
God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Teach us to use the gifts of our hearts, hands, and minds for the building up of Christ's reign of peace. **R7.**

Give wisdom, compassion, and right judgment to medical interns, doctors, and nurses. **R7.**

Watch over the well-being of the imprisoned and those who work in prisons. **R7.**

Our Father . . .

May God bless us with peace and grant all that we ask in faith, through Jesus our peace. Amen.

The Order of Mass

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

■ Amen.

GREETING

A The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
And with your spirit.

B Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And with your spirit.

C The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

(Pause)

A I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

B Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.
Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.

These or other invocations may be used.

C You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.
Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.

You came to call sinners:

Christ, have mercy. **Or:** Christe, eleison.

Christ, have mercy. **Or:** Christe, eleison.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to
intercede for us:

Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.

Lord, have mercy. **Or:** Kyrie, eleison.

■ May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

■ Amen.

KYRIE

The Kyrie, eleison (Lord, have mercy) invocations follow, unless they have just occurred in a formula of the Penitential Act.

■ Lord, have mercy. ■ Kyrie, eleison.

■ Lord, have mercy. ■ Kyrie, eleison.

■ Christ, have mercy. ■ Christe, eleison.

■ Christ, have mercy. ■ Christe, eleison.

■ Lord, have mercy. ■ Kyrie, eleison.

■ Lord, have mercy. ■ Kyrie, eleison.

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.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

Cleanse my heart and my lips, almighty God,
that I may worthily proclaim your holy Gospel.

■ The Lord be with you.

■ And with your spirit.

■ A reading from the holy Gospel according to **N**.

■ Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

■ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the words of the Gospel
may our sins be wiped away.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH

[The Apostles' Creed can be found on p. 357]

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow.

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (BIDDING PRAYERS)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you:

fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

By the mystery of this water and wine
may we come to share in the divinity of Christ
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,
for through your goodness we have received
the wine we offer you:
fruit of the vine and work of human hands,
it will become our spiritual drink.

Blessed be God for ever.

With humble spirit and contrite heart
may we be accepted by you, O Lord,
and may our sacrifice in your sight this day
be pleasing to you, Lord God.

Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity
and cleanse me from my sin.

INVITATION TO PRAYER

Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),
that my sacrifice and yours
may be acceptable to God,
the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands
for the praise and glory of his name,
for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- The Lord be with you. ■ And with your spirit.
- Lift up your hearts. ■ We lift them up to the Lord.
- Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- It is right and just.

PREFACE OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

The mystery of the Most Holy Trinity

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For with your Only Begotten Son and the Holy Spirit
you are one God, one Lord:

not in the unity of a single person,
but in a Trinity of one substance.

For what you have revealed to us of your glory
we believe equally of your Son
and of the Holy Spirit,
so that, in the confessing of the true and eternal Godhead,
you might be adored in what is proper to each Person,
their unity in substance,
and their equality in majesty.

For this is praised by Angels and Archangels,
Cherubim, too, and Seraphim,
who never cease to cry out each day,
as with one voice they acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE II OF THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST

The fruits of the Most Holy Eucharist

(The following Preface is said on the Solemnity of the Most Holy
Body and Blood of Christ [Corpus Christi] and in Votive Masses of
the Most Holy Eucharist.)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For at the Last Supper with his Apostles,
establishing for the ages to come the saving memorial of
the Cross,

he offered himself to you as the unblemished Lamb,
the acceptable gift of perfect praise.

Nourishing your faithful by this sacred mystery,
you make them holy, so that the human race,
bounded by one world,
may be enlightened by one faith
and united by one bond of charity.

And so, we approach the table of this wondrous Sacrament,
so that, bathed in the sweetness of your grace,
we may pass over to the heavenly realities here
foreshadowed.

Therefore, all creatures of heaven and earth
sing a new song in adoration,
and we, with all the host of Angels,
cry out, and without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE IV OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

The history of salvation

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For by his birth he brought renewal
to humanity's fallen state,
and by his suffering, canceled out our sins;
by his rising from the dead
he has opened the way to eternal life,
and by ascending to you, O Father,
he has unlocked the gates of heaven.

And so, with the company of Angels and Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

COMMON PREFACE IV

Praise, the gift of God

(The following Preface is said in Masses that have no proper Preface,
and for which a Preface related to a specific liturgical time is not
indicated.)

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For, although you have no need of our praise,
yet our thanksgiving is itself your gift,
since our praises add nothing to your greatness
but profit us for salvation,
through Christ our Lord.

And so, in company with the choirs of Angels,
we praise you, and with joy we proclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The boundless charity of Christ

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For raised up high on the Cross,
he gave himself up for us with a wonderful love
and poured out blood and water from his pierced side,
the wellspring of the Church's Sacraments,
so that, won over to the open heart of the Savior,
all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints,
we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE OF THE NATIVITY OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST

The mission of the Precursor

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

In his Precursor, Saint John the Baptist,
we praise your great glory,
for you consecrated him for a singular honor
among those born of women.

His birth brought great rejoicing;
even in the womb he leapt for joy
at the coming of human salvation.
He alone of all the prophets
pointed out the Lamb of redemption.

And to make holy the flowing waters,
he baptized the very author of Baptism
and was privileged to bear him supreme witness
by the shedding of his blood.

And so, with the Powers of heaven,
we worship you constantly on earth,
and before your majesty
without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

PREFACE OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL, APOSTLES

The twofold mission of Peter and Paul in the Church

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For by your providence
 the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul bring us joy:
 Peter, foremost in confessing the faith,
 Paul, its outstanding preacher,
 Peter, who established the early Church from the remnant
 of Israel,
 Paul, master and teacher of the Gentiles that you call.

And so, each in a different way
 gathered together the one family of Christ;
 and revered together throughout the world,
 they share one Martyr's crown.

And therefore, with all the Angels and Saints,
 we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
 Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER I (Roman Canon)

To you, therefore, most merciful Father,
 we make humble prayer and petition
 through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord:
 that you accept
 and bless ✠ these gifts, these offerings,
 these holy and unblemished sacrifices,
 which we offer you firstly
 for your holy catholic Church.
 Be pleased to grant her peace,
 to guard, unite and govern her
 throughout the whole world,
 together with your servant **N.** our Pope
 and **N.** our Bishop,

and all those who, holding to the truth,
hand on the catholic and apostolic faith.

Remember, Lord, your servants **N.** and **N.**
and all gathered here,
whose faith and devotion are known to you.
For them, we offer you this sacrifice of praise
or they offer it for themselves
and all who are dear to them:
for the redemption of their souls,
in hope of health and well-being,
and paying their homage to you,
the eternal God, living and true.

In communion with those whose memory we venerate,
especially the glorious ever-Virgin Mary,
Mother of our God and Lord, Jesus Christ,
† and blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
your blessed Apostles and Martyrs,
Peter and Paul, Andrew,
(James, John,
Thomas, James, Philip,
Bartholomew, Matthew,
Simon and Jude;
Linus, Cletus, Clement, Sixtus,
Cornelius, Cyprian,
Lawrence, Chrysogonus,
John and Paul,
Cosmas and Damian)
and all your Saints;
we ask that through their merits and prayers,
in all things we may be defended
by your protecting help.
(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Therefore, Lord, we pray:
graciously accept this oblation of our service,

that of your whole family;
 order our days in your peace,
 and command that we be delivered from eternal damnation
 and counted among the flock of those you have chosen.

(Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Be pleased, O God, we pray,
 to bless, acknowledge,
 and approve this offering in every respect;
 make it spiritual and acceptable,
 so that it may become for us
 the Body and Blood of your most beloved Son,
 our Lord Jesus Christ.

On the day before he was to suffer,
 he took bread in his holy and venerable hands,
 and with eyes raised to heaven
 to you, O God, his almighty Father,
 giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
 broke the bread
 and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
 FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
 WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
 he took this precious chalice
 in his holy and venerable hands,
 and once more giving you thanks, he said the blessing
 and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
 FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
 THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
 WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
 FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, O Lord,
as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion,
the Resurrection from the dead,
and the glorious Ascension into heaven
of Christ, your Son, our Lord,
we, your servants and your holy people,
offer to your glorious majesty
from the gifts that you have given us,
this pure victim,
this holy victim,
this spotless victim,
the holy Bread of eternal life
and the Chalice of everlasting salvation.

Be pleased to look upon these offerings
with a serene and kindly countenance,
and to accept them,
as once you were pleased to accept
the gifts of your servant Abel the just,
the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith,
and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek,
a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim.

In humble prayer we ask you, almighty God:
 command that these gifts be borne
 by the hands of your holy Angel
 to your altar on high
 in the sight of your divine majesty,
 so that all of us, who through this participation at the altar
 receive the most holy Body and Blood of your Son,
 may be filled with every grace and heavenly blessing.
 (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

Remember also, Lord, your servants **N.** and **N.**,
 who have gone before us with the sign of faith
 and rest in the sleep of peace.

Grant them, O Lord, we pray,
 and all who sleep in Christ,
 a place of refreshment, light and peace.
 (Through Christ our Lord. Amen.)

To us, also, your servants, who, though sinners,
 hope in your abundant mercies,
 graciously grant some share
 and fellowship with your holy Apostles and Martyrs:
 with John the Baptist, Stephen,
 Matthias, Barnabas,
 (Ignatius, Alexander,
 Marcellinus, Peter,
 Felicity, Perpetua,
 Agatha, Lucy,
 Agnes, Cecilia, Anastasia)
 and all your Saints;
 admit us, we beseech you,
 into their company,
 not weighing our merits,
 but granting us your pardon,
 through Christ our Lord.

Through whom
you continue to make all these good things, O Lord;
you sanctify them, fill them with life,
bless them, and bestow them upon us.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, p. 353.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER II

Preface

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ,
your Word through whom you made all things,
whom you sent as our Savior and Redeemer,
incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people,
he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion,
so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints
we declare your glory,
as with one voice we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
the fount of all holiness.
Make holy, therefore, these gifts, we pray,
by sending down your Spirit upon them like the dewfall,
so that they may become for us
the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time he was betrayed
and entered willingly into his Passion,
he took bread and, giving thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice
and, once more giving thanks,
he gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, as we celebrate
the memorial of his Death and Resurrection,
we offer you, Lord,

the Bread of life and the Chalice of salvation,
giving thanks that you have held us worthy
to be in your presence and minister to you.

Humbly we pray
that, partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ,
we may be gathered into one by the Holy Spirit.

Remember, Lord, your Church,
spread throughout the world,
and bring her to the fullness of charity,
together with **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop
and all the clergy.

Remember also our brothers and sisters
who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection,
and all who have died in your mercy:
welcome them into the light of your face.

Have mercy on us all, we pray,
that with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with the blessed Apostles,
and all the Saints who have pleased you throughout the ages,
we may merit to be coheirs to eternal life,
and may praise and glorify you
through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, p. 353.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER III

You are indeed Holy, O Lord,
and all you have created
rightly gives you praise,
for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
by the power and working of the Holy Spirit,
you give life to all things and make them holy,
and you never cease to gather a people to yourself,
so that from the rising of the sun to its setting
a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you:
by the same Spirit graciously make holy
these gifts we have brought to you for consecration,
that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood
of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed
he himself took bread,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended,
he took the chalice,
and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial
of the saving Passion of your Son,
his wondrous Resurrection
and Ascension into heaven,
and as we look forward to his second coming,
we offer you in thanksgiving
this holy and living sacrifice.

Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church
and, recognizing the sacrificial Victim by whose death
you willed to reconcile us to yourself,
grant that we, who are nourished
by the Body and Blood of your Son
and filled with his Holy Spirit,
may become one body, one spirit in Christ.

May he make of us
an eternal offering to you,
so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect,
especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs
(with Saint N.: the Saint of the day or Patron Saint)

and with all the Saints,
on whose constant intercession in your presence
we rely for unfailing help.

May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation,
we pray, O Lord,
advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity
your pilgrim Church on earth,
with your servant **N.** our Pope and **N.** our Bishop,
the Order of Bishops, all the clergy,
and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family,
whom you have summoned before you:
in your compassion, O merciful Father,
gather to yourself all your children
scattered throughout the world.

† To our departed brothers and sisters
and to all who were pleasing to you
at their passing from this life,
give kind admittance to your kingdom.
There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory
through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good. †

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer, p. 353.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER IV

Preface

It is truly right to give you thanks,
truly just to give you glory, Father most holy,
for you are the one God living and true,
existing before all ages and abiding for all eternity,
dwelling in unapproachable light;
yet you, who alone are good, the source of life,
have made all that is,
so that you might fill your creatures with blessings
and bring joy to many of them by the glory of your light.
And so, in your presence are countless hosts of Angels,
who serve you day and night
and, gazing upon the glory of your face,
glorify you without ceasing.

With them we, too, confess your name in exultation,
giving voice to every creature under heaven,
as we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

We give you praise, Father most holy,
for you are great
and you have fashioned all your works
in wisdom and in love.
You formed man in your own image
and entrusted the whole world to his care,
so that in serving you alone, the Creator,
he might have dominion over all creatures.
And when through disobedience he had lost your friendship,
you did not abandon him to the domain of death.
For you came in mercy to the aid of all,
so that those who seek might find you.
Time and again you offered them covenants
and through the prophets
taught them to look forward to salvation.

And you so loved the world, Father most holy,
that in the fullness of time
you sent your Only Begotten Son to be our Savior.
Made incarnate by the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary,
he shared our human nature
in all things but sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation,
to prisoners, freedom,
and to the sorrowful of heart, joy.
To accomplish your plan,
he gave himself up to death,
and, rising from the dead,
he destroyed death and restored life.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves
but for him who died and rose again for us,
he sent the Holy Spirit from you, Father,
as the first fruits for those who believe,
so that, bringing to perfection his work in the world,
he might sanctify creation to the full.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray:
may this same Holy Spirit
graciously sanctify these offerings,
that they may become
the Body and ✠ Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
for the celebration of this great mystery,
which he himself left us
as an eternal covenant.

For when the hour had come
for him to be glorified by you, Father most holy,
having loved his own who were in the world,
he loved them to the end:
and while they were at supper,

he took bread, blessed and broke it,
and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way,
taking the chalice filled with the fruit of the vine,
he gave thanks,
and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,
WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.

DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

The mystery of faith.

A We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.

B When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.

C Save us, Savior of the world,
for by your Cross and Resurrection
you have set us free.

Therefore, O Lord,
as we now celebrate the memorial of our redemption,
we remember Christ's Death
and his descent to the realm of the dead,
we proclaim his Resurrection
and his Ascension to your right hand,
and, as we await his coming in glory,

we offer you his Body and Blood,
the sacrifice acceptable to you
which brings salvation to the whole world.

Look, O Lord, upon the Sacrifice
which you yourself have provided for your Church,
and grant in your loving kindness
to all who partake of this one Bread and one Chalice
that, gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit,
they may truly become a living sacrifice in Christ
to the praise of your glory.

Therefore, Lord, remember now
all for whom we offer this sacrifice:
especially your servant **N.** our Pope,
N. our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops,
all the clergy,
those who take part in this offering,
those gathered here before you,
your entire people,
and all who seek you with a sincere heart.

Remember also
those who have died in the peace of your Christ
and all the dead,
whose faith you alone have known.

To all of us, your children,
grant, O merciful Father,
that we may enter into a heavenly inheritance
with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God,
with blessed Joseph, her Spouse,
and with your Apostles and Saints in your kingdom.
There, with the whole of creation,
freed from the corruption of sin and death,
may we glorify you through Christ our Lord,
through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

**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.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

SIGN OF PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.
Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And with your spirit.

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

May this mingling of the Body and Blood
of our Lord Jesus Christ
bring eternal life to us who receive it.

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God,
who, by the will of the Father
and the work of the Holy Spirit,
through your Death gave life to the world,
free me by this, your most holy Body and Blood,
from all my sins and from every evil;
keep me always faithful to your commandments,
and never let me be parted from you.

Or:

May the receiving of your Body and Blood,
Lord Jesus Christ,
not bring me to judgment and condemnation,
but through your loving mercy
be for me protection in mind and body
and a healing remedy.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

If there is no singing, the communion antiphon is recited.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CONCLUDING RITES

FINAL BLESSING

■ The Lord be with you.

■ **And with your spirit.**

■ May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

■ **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

A Go forth, the Mass is ended.

B Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

C Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

D Go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Celebration of the Liturgy of the Word

[With Holy Communion]

INTRODUCTORY RITES

INTRODUCTION

Deacon or lay leader:

We gather here to celebrate the Lord's Day.

Sunday has been called the Lord's Day because

it was on this day

that Jesus conquered sin and death and rose to new life.

Unfortunately, we are not able to celebrate the Mass today

because we do not have a priest.

Let us be united in the spirit of Christ with

the Church around the world

and celebrate our redemption in Christ's suffering,

death, and resurrection.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

Deacon or lay leader:

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

■ Amen.

GREETING

Deacon or lay leader:

■ Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be God for ever.

■ Blessed be God for ever.

COLLECT

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

GOSPEL

HOMILY OR REFLECTION ON THE READINGS

PERIOD OF SILENCE

PROFESSION OF FAITH

[The Nicene Creed can be found on p. 331]

Apostles' Creed

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

At the words that follow, up to and including the Virgin Mary,
all bow.

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.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

COMMUNION RITE

LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon or lay leader:

The Father provides us with food for eternal life.
At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

**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.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Deacon or lay leader:

**Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

COMMUNION

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

CONCLUDING RITE

INVITATION TO PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Deacon or lay leader:

Mindful of our Lord's word, "Ask the Master of the harvest to send out laborers for the harvest," let us pray for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. May our prayer hasten the day when we will be able to take part in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist every Sunday.

BLESSING

SIGN OF PEACE

Guide to *Lectio Divina*

Choose a word or phrase of the Scriptures you wish to pray. It makes no difference which text is chosen, as long as you have no set goal of “covering” a certain amount of text. The amount of text covered is in God’s hands, not yours.

Read. Turn to the text and read it slowly, gently. Savor each portion of the reading, constantly listening for the “still, small voice” of a word or phrase that somehow says, “I am for you today.” Do not expect lightning or ecstasies. In *lectio divina*, God is teaching us to listen, to seek him in silence. God does not reach out and grab us but gently invites us ever more deeply into his presence.

Ponder. Take the word or phrase into yourself. Memorize it and slowly repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories, and ideas. Do not be afraid of distractions. Memories or thoughts are simply parts of yourself that, when they rise up during *lectio divina*, are asking to be given to God along with the rest of your inner self. Allow this inner pondering, this rumination, to invite you into dialogue with God.

Pray. Whether you use words, ideas, or images—or all three—is not important. Interact with God as you would with one who you know loves and accepts you. Give to God what you have discovered during your experience of meditation. Give to God what you have found within your heart.

It is not necessary to assess the quality of your *lectio divina*, as if you were “performing” or seeking some goal. *Lectio divina* has no goal other than that of being in the presence of God by praying the Scriptures.

—Fr. Luke Dysinger

Luke Dysinger, OSB, is a Benedictine monk of Saint Andrew’s Abbey, Valyermo, California.

Now as New Light Reveals the Sky

Ordinary Time—AM



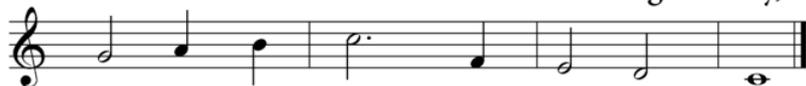
1. Now as new light re - veals the sky,
 2. May we pre - serve our souls from sin
 3. All praise be to the Tri - ni - ty,



an - nounc - ing God's cre - a - tive work;
 and keep our thoughts and works in peace;
 to Fa - ther, Son, and Par - a - clete;



we turn to him with con - fi - dence,
 may wis - dom be our con - stant guide
 who live in ev - er - last - ing day,



that he will work in us to - day.
 in or - der and in ho - li - ness.
 in un - di - vid - ed u - ni - ty.

Text: Cecile Gertken, OSB, 1902–2001, © 1979, Order of Saint Benedict,
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Music: DUKE STREET, 88 88; John Hatton, c. 1710–1793.

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

Ordinary Time—AM/PM

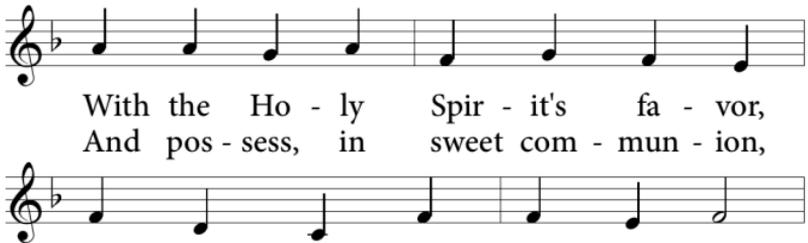
Familiar Tune: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



1. May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior
 2. Thus may we a - bide in un - ion



And the Fa - ther's bound - less love
 With each oth - er and the Lord,



With the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor,
 And pos - sess, in sweet com - mun - ion,
 Rest up - on us from a - bove.
 Joys which earth can - not af - ford.

Text: 2 Corinthians 13-14; John Newton, 1725-1807
 Tune: STUTTGART, 87 87; *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715;
 adapt. by William H. Havergal, 1793-1870, alt.

Before We Reach the Close of Day

Ordinary Time—PM



1. Be - fore we reach the close of day,
 2. As we to end of life draw near,
 3. Most lov - ing Fa - ther, hear our plea!
 Cre - a - tor of the world, we pray,
 con - sole us, Lord, re - move our fear,
 You rule the world with eq - ui - ty,
 that in your mer - cy you will keep
 may we with light and grace be blessed
 to - geth - er with your on - ly Son,
 a guard a - round us while we sleep.
 and find in you e - ter - nal rest.
 and with your Spir - it, three - in - one.

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 Music: O WALY WALY, LM; English.

Eternal Trinity of Love

Trinity—AM/PM



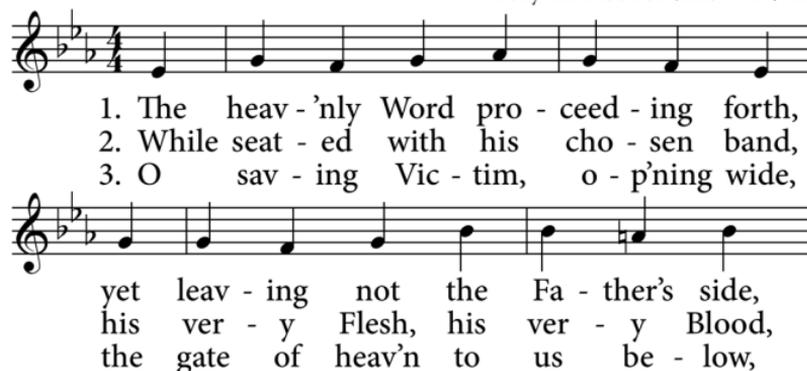
1. E - ter - nal Tri - ni - ty of love,
 2. Cre - a - tion lives and breathes in you,
 3. We praise you, God - head, One in Three,
 in peace and ma - jes - ty you reign:
 sus - tained by your al - might - y will;
 im - mor - tal Tri - ni - ty of light,
 all things come forth from you a - lone;
 grant us to know you, God of truth,
 un - chang - ing through e - ter - nal days
 to you they must re - turn a - gain.
 in whom the quest - ing mind is still.
 you live un - moved, se - rene in might.

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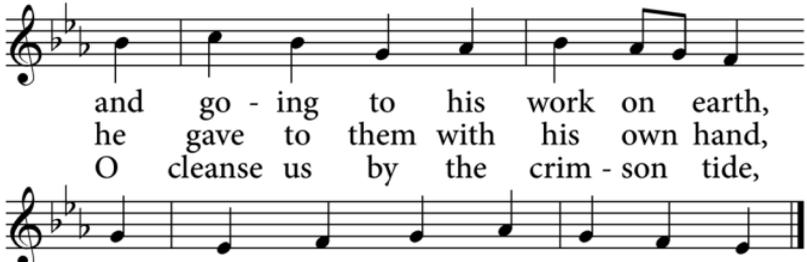
Music: PROSPECT, 88 88, William Walker's *Southern Harmony*.

The Heavenly Word Proceeding Forth

Body and Blood of Christ—AM/PM



1. The heav - 'nly Word pro - ceed - ing forth,
 2. While seat - ed with his cho - sen band,
 3. O sav - ing Vic - tim, o - p'ning wide,
 yet leav - ing not the Fa - ther's side,
 his ver - y Flesh, his ver - y Blood,
 the gate of heav'n to us be - low,

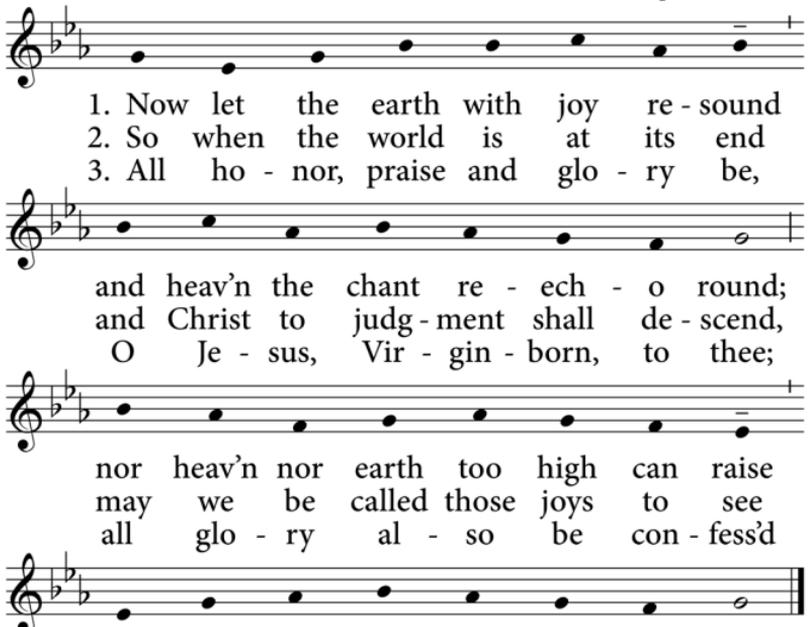


and go - ing to his work on earth,
 he gave to them with his own hand,
 O cleanse us by the crim - son tide,
 had reached at length life's ev - en - tide.
 and fed them with an - gel - ic food.
 which from your wound - ed side did flow.

Text: Roger Schoenbechler, OSB, © 1975, Order of Saint Benedict,
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 Music: DUGUET, 88 88, Abbé Duguët, c. 1767.

Now Let the Earth with Joy Resound

Apostles—AM/PM



1. Now let the earth with joy re - sound
 2. So when the world is at its end
 3. All ho - nor, praise and glo - ry be,
 and heav'n the chant re - ech - o round;
 and Christ to judg - ment shall de - scend,
 O Je - sus, Vir - gin - born, to thee;
 nor heav'n nor earth too high can raise
 may we be called those joys to see
 all glo - ry al - so be con - fess'd
 the great a - pos - tles' glo - rious praise.
 pre - pared from all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to Fa - ther and to Spi - rit blest.

Text: Anonymous 10th c., trans. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, alt.
 Music: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, 88 88; Plainchant, Mode III, 9th c.

O Mary, Heaven's Gracious Queen

Marian—AM/PM

1. O Mar - y, heav - en's gra - cious Queen,
 2. In sight of God your splen - dor stands,
 3. As we your prais - es sing to - day,
 all peo - ples round your throne con - vene,
 the per - fect work of God's own hands!
 we beg your mer - cy, and we pray
 to gaze in rap - ture on your face,
 By God's de - cree you gave him birth
 that you ac - cept our hum - ble plea:
 and con - tem - plate your love - ly grace.
 who gave you life up - on this earth.
 help us that we from sin be free.

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Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, 88 88; Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510–1561.

Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

Marian—AM/PM

Familiar Tune: Amazing Grace

1. My spirit magnifies the Lord / and gladness fills my
 soul, / for you, my Lord, have glorified / a lowly
 maiden's role.
2. Hereafter all shall call me blest / for you have honored
 me; / Your mercy is from age to age / to those of piety.
3. The proud you scatter like the wind, / they know your
 mighty arm; / though great ones tumble from their
 thrones, / the humble fear no harm.

4. The hungry poor who seek you, Lord, / are filled abundantly; / the rich who have no need of you / are left in poverty.
5. And Israel, your holy one, / you nurture tenderly; / Your promised mercy you fulfill / through all eternity!
6. Almighty Father, hear our praise / through Christ your only Son, / Whom in the Spirit we adore / while endless ages run.

Text: Bernard Mischke, OSC, 1926–2012, © 1965, Crosier Fathers and Brothers, Phoenix, AZ.
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Queen of Peace, We Greet You

Marian—AM/PM

1. Queen of Peace, we greet you, Mar - y,
2. Mar - y, be our Moth - er, for us
3. Vir - gin, Queen of vir - gins, mod - el
4. Help us live ma - ture - ly, help us

Moth - er, Maid - en! Be our guide to
in - ter - ced - ing with your Son our
of all meek - ness, make us gen - tle,
live more pure - ly, fol - low you se -

heav - en, though with sins we're lad - en.
Sav - ior; list - en to our plead - ing.
ho - ly, help us in our weak - ness!
cure - ly, heav - en gain more sure - ly.

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Music: LÜBECK, 77 77; Johann A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739.

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About the Cover

The prophet Elijah is one of the most revered figures in Judaism. To this day, his name is invoked weekly at the closing of Shabbat, and Jews continue to set a place for Elijah to return each year at Passover. His great trust in God in the face of a seemingly endless string of hardships provides, for Jews and Christians alike, one of the strongest models of faith found in the Hebrew Scriptures. His story begins in 1 Kings 17 when he prophesies a drought and God sends him to live east of the Jordan where he is to be fed by ravens. Cody Miller's image *Elijah Being Fed by the Ravens* shows us the holy prophet seated near the Wadi Cerith—a stream—with a small waterfall in the background, attended by ten ravens.

Mr. Miller's chosen media are cut paper and paint. He says they allow him to show "the layers of God's grace through individuals who dared to trust Him and expose His spend-thrift goodness, layer by layer." Miller's construction of the scene from bits of paper, ink, and paint is a way of reminding us that, when we trust in God's guidance and infinite goodness, we find order emerging even from the chaos of unrelated, disorderly scraps. In commenting on this image, he notes, "It's the hardest thing to let God be Himself in our lives, to not reduce Him to something more manageable, more tame."

After the wadi dried up, the events of Elijah's life grew ever more difficult to manage, but his constant trust in God got him through. Ultimately, his faith enabled him even to perform miracles. Holy Prophet Elijah, pray for us, that our own trust in God may be as robust as yours.

Visit Miller's website at www.codyfmiller.com to see more of his art.

—Br. Ælred Senna

Ælred Senna, OSB, is a monk of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, and associate editor of Give Us This Day.

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Canticle of Mary (Magnificat)

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
the promise he made to our fathers,
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be for ever. Amen.



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