DAILY PRAYER 2020

Sunday Year A ♦ Weekday Year II

A book of prayer for each day of the liturgical year.

J. Philip Horrigan
The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are declarations that the material is free from doctrinal or moral error, and thus is granted permission to publish in accordance with c. 827. No legal responsibility is assumed by the grant of this permission. No implications is contained herein that those who have granted the Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur agree with the content, opinions, or statements expressed.

Excerpts from The Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, © 1998, 1997, 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Excerpts from the English translation of the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL). All rights reserved. The Scripture quote in the reflection on page 154, is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible: Catholic Edition, copyright © 1989, 1993 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Scripture texts on pages 61, 81, 402, 405, 406, 409, 410, 413, 414, 416, 422, and 424 are taken from the New American Bible, revised edition © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. All Rights Reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the copyright owner. Texts contained in this work derived whole or in part from liturgical texts copyrighted by ICEL have been published here with the confirmation of the Committee on Divine Worship, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. No other texts in this book have been formally reviewed or approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Daily Prayer 2020 © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 3949 South Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60609; 800-933-1800; fax: 800-933-7094; email: orders@ltp.org; website: www.LTP.org. All rights reserved. Daily Prayer is based in part on the pattern established in Children’s Daily Prayer, by Elizabeth McMahon Jeep. This book was edited by Timothy A. Johnston. Víctor R. Pérez was the production editor, and Kari Nicholls was the designer and production artist.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-61671-461-1

DP20
Rejoice always.
Pray without ceasing.
In all circumstances give thanks,
for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16–18

Welcome to Daily Prayer 2020, Sunday Year A and Weekday Year II! This edition of the well-loved prayer book provides a familiar order of prayer for each day of the liturgical year, from the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020. Readings from the daily Mass are provided, and the prayer texts and reflections are connected to the liturgical time, solemnities, feasts of the Lord, and the memorials of the saints. The prayers on these pages will inspire and bring you to a deeper appreciation for the Word that is proclaimed and for Eucharist that is shared in the liturgical life of the Church.

The Order of Prayer
Daily Prayer 2020 follows a simple order of prayer: it begins with an opening verse with the Sign of the Cross, followed by a psalm, a reading from the daily Mass, a brief reflection, the Prayer of the Faithful, the Lord’s Prayer, a closing prayer, and a closing verse with the Sign of the Cross. This order remains consistent for each day of the liturgical year, allowing its repetition to become part of your daily rhythm and routine.

Daily Prayer 2020 is organized by liturgical time, and the Psalter is located in the back of the book (pages 398–425). Everything you need is conveniently contained in this resource. Refer to the table of contents for easy reference.

DAILY HEADING
Daily Prayer 2020 is easy to use. A heading is provided for each day of prayer so you will always know where you are and what you should pray. The heading includes the date and the name of the liturgical observance. Typically, optional memorials are not celebrated in this edition of Daily Prayer 2020; however, if celebrated, the optional memorial will be noted in the heading. The liturgical observances are those according to the norms prescribed by the Secretariat of Divine Worship.

OPENING AND CLOSING VERSICLE WITH SIGN OF THE CROSS
The order of prayer begins each day with the Sign of the Cross and a versicle, or opening verse. The versicles are taken from the refrains proper to the Responsorial Psalms from the Mass; antiphons from The Liturgy of the Hours and The Roman Missal; verses from the Acclamations before the Gospel (Lectionary for Mass); and lines from Scripture, especially the psalms.

PSALMODY
The psalms are an important part of Catholic prayer. As poetic readings from Sacred Scripture, the psalms reflect upon God’s saving work in various ways—praise, thanksgiving, and lamentation. The psalms in Daily Prayer 2020 have been selected for their liturgical significance. Psalms for Advent implore God’s return; psalms for Christmas
THE LORD’S PRAYER
Jesus taught us how to pray. It is fitting to follow the Universal Prayer with the Lord’s Prayer, for it encapsulates the humility and reverence we give to our God—and neighbor—while asking for his mercy and forgiveness.

CLOSING PRAYER
The closing prayer follows the form of the traditional Collect. This prayer “is usually addressed to God the Father, through Christ, in the Holy Spirit” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 54). Essentially, this prayer “collects” our daily prayer, the prayers found in this book, and those of our hearts and minds, those as individuals or groups, into one Trinitarian prayer, concluding with our assent of faith in the response “Amen.”

Using the Book
This resource may be used by individuals, families, or prayer groups; on retreats; to begin meetings or catechetical sessions, formational and youth ministry events; or as prayer with the aged, sick, and homebound. The prayers may be used at any time during the day, and given this book’s convenient size, it is easily transported to meet various prayer needs and situations.

The order of prayer may be prayed silently or, especially for group prayer, prayed aloud. If used for prayer gatherings, it might be helpful to designate someone to open the prayer, lead the Prayer of the Faithful, begin the Lord’s Prayer, and to conclude the prayer. Select an additional volunteer to proclaim the reading. Allow the faithful to read the psalm together either as an entire group, or divide the stanzas among the faithful with alternating recitation.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER
Universal Prayer, sometimes referred to as the Prayer of the Faithful, is a prayer of the baptized who, through Christ, voice their concerns to God regarding the Church, the world, the oppressed, local needs, and other concerns. Thus, the prayers in this book connect the individual and small faith groups to the universal Church and those in most need of God’s love and mercy. Although specific prayers are provided in this resource, others may be added.

READING
Each day of prayer includes a reading from the daily Mass. This enables further reflection upon the Word of God proclaimed during the Eucharistic celebration (Mass)—the source and summit of our faith. On some days, excerpts, not the full text, from the Scripture passage have been selected. The Gospel is used for each Sunday, solemnity, and feast of the Lord.

REFLECTION
The author for this year has provided insights for meditation and reflection. These reflections guide the reader to a deeper relationship with God, neighbor, and self.

Time shout for joy; psalms for Lent evoke the need for God’s mercy and forgiveness; psalms for Easter Time give praise for his glory and salvation; and psalms for Ordinary Time give thanks for all that is good. For many of the Marian solemnities and feasts, the psalm has been replaced by the Canticle of Mary. This canticle is included on page 423.
Feel free to adapt these prayers for specific needs—intercessions (or petitions) may be added, music may begin and conclude the service, and the psalm response to the Universal Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer may be chanted or sung.

Other Uses for Daily Prayer

Daily Prayer 2020 also may be used in other situations or for various needs.

• Use the Prayer of the Faithful during the Mass. The prayers have been written in accordance with paragraphs 69 and 70 of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. Since this book contains prayers for each day of the liturgical year, you may use the intercessions for every day of the year for Mass.

• Use the included reflections as homily sparkers and catechetical tools.

Customer Feedback

Daily Prayer 2020 is the seventeenth edition of an annual publication; Daily Prayer 2021 is already being prepared. Because it is an annual, it can be changed from year to year to become a better tool for your daily prayer. As you use this book and adapt it for yourself, you may have ideas about how it can be made more useful for your prayer. Feel free to email us at DailyPrayer@LTP.org.

About the Author

Rev. J. Philip Horrigan is a presbyter of the Archdiocese of Kingston, Ontario. He has a graduate degree in theology (MTH, 1994–95) from the Institute for Spirituality and Worship at the Jesuit School of Theology at Berkeley, CA. In June 1997 he received his doctorate of ministry (DMIN, liturgical studies) at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, and was appointed the director of the newly formed Department for Art and Architecture in the Office for Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago, a position he held for twelve and a half years. In this capacity he acted as a liturgical consultant/resource person for all the new church building and renovation projects for the Archdiocese, and chaired the Diocesan Commission on Church Art and Architecture. He is an adjunct faculty in the Word and Worship department at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago. Since 2009 he has developed his ministry as a liturgical design consultant and maintains a number of consulting projects in Canada and the United States, both with Roman Catholic and Lutheran congregations. He is a frequent presenter at conferences and workshops on various topics related to the building and renovation of worship spaces, as well as issues on the liturgical environment, the history and components of liturgical design, sacramental theology, the spiritual and ecclesial dimensions of liturgical ministries, and the pastoral implications of liturgical rituals, documents, and praxis. He has written a number of articles for liturgical publications and his particular interest is understanding and exploring the relationship between ritual space and ritual event.
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Psalm 138

Reading  Matthew 5:3–12a

“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.”

Reflection

The Beatitudes comprise one of the most familiar and most beloved texts of the Gospel. For Matthew, they act as the foundation of Jesus’ mission. For Jesus, they offer a twofold message. First, they announce a present blessing. The poor in spirit—those who mourn, those who are merciful, etc.—are already blessed. God has indeed favored them. Second, the Beatitudes place a future challenge before the followers of Jesus; they are called on to recognize the blessings of

God and to strive to live in such a way as to receive the same blessings.

Prayers  others may be added

Bless us, O God, when we pray:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who are persecuted, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those who have suffered rejection and abuse by those they trusted, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those who have brought goodness and comfort to others, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those who have died in our families, and for those who mourn them, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .

In your abundant providence, O God, you have chosen holy men and women to be examples of the mercy and the sacrificial love of your Son, Jesus Christ.

May we strive to imitate their holiness and follow the same Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

◆ Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 91

Reading

Matthew 25:31–40

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him and say, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothed you? When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?’ And the king will say to them in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.’”

Reflection

This text from Matthew is often referred to as the account of the Last Judgement. It is a well-known passage and the teaching is pretty obvious. Both those on the left and the right side of Son of Man register surprise for the same reason: they didn’t realize that the people they helped or the ones they failed to help were the Lord! Each of us has probably been in both situations in our life. As readers of the Gospel, and as followers of the Lord, we are forewarned by this teaching. What would we rather be, a sheep or a goat?

Prayers

Merciful God, hear us.

For all those we have ignored because of indifference or busyness, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For those who have been persecuted because of their faith or their way of life, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For those who have been imprisoned unjustly, or detained because of their social status, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For those who have been forced to flee from hatred and abuse, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

Almighty and merciful God, you have always been just toward those who have followed your commandments.

Hear our cry for all who have died in your mercy and welcome them into the glory of your eternal kingdom.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
† In you, O Lord, I have found my peace.

Psalm 86  page 408

Reading  Luke 14:16–21

[Jesus] replied to him, “A man gave a great dinner to which he invited many. When the time for the dinner came, he dispatched his servant to say to those invited, ‘Come, everything is now ready.’ But one by one, they all began to excuse themselves. The first said to him, ‘I have purchased a field and must go to examine it; I ask you, consider me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have purchased five yoke of oxen and am on my way to evaluate them; I ask you, consider me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have just married a woman, and therefore I cannot come.’ The servant went and reported this to his master. Then the master of the house in a rage commanded his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in here the poor and the crippled, the blind and the lame.’”

Reflection

An invitation to a great dinner is usually met with appreciation and anticipation. After all, we have been chosen and others have not. But the invitation at the crux of the Gospel story is no ordinary invitation. It is likened to the offer of God to be in the company of those who will be saved. This is indeed a great honor. What will we do? We are so very busy with many things. Therein lies the bigger question: What is more important? To attend to the banquet of the Lord or to let our busyness keep us from the Eucharistic meal?

Prayers  others may be added

To our loving God, we turn in prayer:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the virtue of honesty in seeking forgiveness for the times we have turned from God’s love, we pray to the Lord:◆ For pastoral leaders who help us to respond to the invitation to be faithful to our vocation, we pray to the Lord:◆ For our parents and teachers who have given us an example of generous service, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those who need healing in their hearts and a renewal of their faith, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .

Ever-faithful and loving God, you have called us to be your people, and to serve with gladness your Church on earth. Let our commitment to your commandments never waver, and our response to your invitation to communion with your Son never be in doubt. 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. Amen.

† In you, O Lord, I have found my peace.
† The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Psalm 145

Reading

Great crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned and addressed them, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

Reflection

At first, the opening verses of this reading seem rather harsh. That may be the result of the translation of the word hate; a word that makes us uncomfortable. The context here is important. Jesus is teaching the importance of loyalty to discipleship above all else. In this case, hatred is not an evil thought, but rather a preference for one good over another. After all, the commandment to honor one’s parents is also a biblical teaching. Following Jesus and loving our parents can exist together; we are grateful to be able to do both.

Prayers

Turning to God, we pray:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

For our parents, for their love for us, and for their example of faith, we pray to the Lord:◆ For all the families that bring life and joy to our parish community, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those families that are torn apart by persecution, and for their safety, we pray to the Lord:◆ For parents who must be strong for their children when they are sick, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .

In your loving ways, O God, you care for us as a parent cares for a child. In your servant, Charles Borromeo, many found comfort and strength in living their faith. Bestow on us the grace to imitate his compassion and to give you praise, 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. Amen.

† The Lord is my light and my salvation.
† Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord.

Psalm 86  
page 408

Reading  
Luke 15:4–5, 7–10

[Jesus said:] “What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy. I tell you, in just the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance.

“Or what woman having ten coins and losing one would not light a lamp and sweep the house, searching carefully until she finds it? And when she does find it, she calls together her friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found the coin that I lost.’ In just the same way, I tell you, there will be rejoicing among the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Reflection

The three parables in chapter 15 of Luke’s account of the Gospel are about the astonishing mercy of God. The first two comprise today’s reading. The third is the story of the prodigal son. The two parables recall ordinary events in life: a lost sheep and a lost coin. What is extraordinary is the statement about the rejoicing of God when a sinner repents. We know that when we admit of our sins it feels like a burden has been lifted from our shoulders; we regain a sense of peace and joy. But imagining God rejoicing should only increase our desire to confess and be forgiven.

Prayers

With longing heart, we pray:

✦ Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For the courage to seek the mercy of God, we pray: ✦ For confessors who proclaim the forgiveness of God, we pray: ✦ For those who find it difficult to ask for forgiveness, we pray: ✦ For all those we have sinned against, may they come to forgive us, we pray: ✦

Our Father . . .

Ever-merciful and loving God, your compassion is beyond measure and your kindness greater than we merit. Grant that we always imitate your spirit of forgiveness so that we live in communion with our brothers and sisters, and with your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

† Let hearts rejoice who search for the Lord.
† All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalm 145

Reading Philippians 3:17, 20—4:1

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. . . . Our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified Body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

Reflection

Paul loved his Churches, those communities that embraced his teachings about Jesus Christ. He encouraged them and complimented them when they responded with fervor, living out the Gospel. But he also took them to task when he thought that they had lost their way and became too worldly. In this reading, he criticizes them for losing sight of the example he had set before them. We are all tempted to make choices that lead us away from the teachings of Jesus; we need the words of Paul to bring us back to behavior that imitates the way of the Lord.

Prayers

We turn our hearts to you, O God, as we pray:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

That Christians have the strength to resist the attractions of this world, we pray to the Lord: ◆ That the allure of a consumerist society not overwhelm the youth of today, we pray to the Lord; ◆ That preachers and teachers of the gospel follow Paul’s example of faithfulness to the Lord, we pray to the Lord: ◆ That those who have served the Lord so faithfully in this life come to their eternal reward, we pray to the Lord; ◆

Our Father . . .

Eternal and ever-loving God, you call your Church to be watchful in this world and to be an agent that transforms all things into signs of your goodness. Bestow on us the courage to resist whatever leads us away from the commands of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

† All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
† Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever.

Psalm 148  

Reading  

Luke 16:9–13

Jesus said to his disciples: “I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. The person who is trustworthy in very small matters is also trustworthy in great ones; and the person who is dishonest in very small matters is also dishonest in great ones. If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth? If you are not trustworthy with what belongs to another, who will give you what is yours? No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”

Reflection

The final verse in today’s reading captures a central theme in Jesus’ teaching about the reign of God. Jesus seeks to instill in his followers Kingdom thinking. In other words, his followers are to look at life by placing a priority on the Kingdom of God. This means that the followers of the Lord have to serve God in all things, and above all things. Here “mammon” refers to the attractions and the things that distract from that single-minded service. It’s not that worldly things are evil, but placing them before the things of God is not worthy of the disciple.

Prayers  

We turn to you alone, O God, and pray:

◆ Faithful God, hear our prayer.

For leaders of nations, that they respect fundamental Christin values, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For an end to persecution of people because of their religious beliefs, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For those who hoard an abundance of worldly goods that they share with those who have so little to live on, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For corporations that have made money their god, that they be moved to lift up those who are improvised, we pray to the Lord. ◆

Our Father . . .

O God, you provide your people with all that is good, and your providence is beyond measure. May our lives be a sign of gratitude for all that we have been given, and a promise of love for all whom we encounter in our daily life. 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. Amen.

† Every day will I bless you, and I will praise your name forever.
My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.

Psalm 98

Reading Matthew 25:1 – 13

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them, but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. At midnight, there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’ While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

Prayers

Be with us always, O God, we pray:

❖ Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who lack necessary resources, we pray to the Lord:
❖ For those who volunteer to assist others, we pray to the Lord:
❖ For those who are confined to hospitals, or to their home, we pray to the Lord:
❖ For those who accompany persons who are terminally ill, we pray to the Lord:

Our Father . . .

We place our trust in you, O God, as we prepare to meet your Son, Jesus Christ, when he returns in glory. Grant us the courage to be strong in our waiting, and deepen our faith as we live each day in hope. 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. Amen.

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God.
† O Lord, you have probed me and you know me.

Psalm 145  

Reading  

1 Corinthians 3:9c – 11, 16 – 17

Brothers and sisters: You are God’s building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building upon it. But each one must be careful how he builds upon it, for no one can lay a foundation other than the one that is there, namely, Jesus Christ.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for the temple of God, which you are, is holy.

Reflection

Paul uses architectural imagery to teach the Corinthians about their relationship to Christ. Just as the foundation of a building gives strength to the whole structure, so too does Christ provide the necessary footing for the life of a believer. But Paul cautions his readers to be sure that it is Christ who is their foundation and not the teaching of another, let alone their own purpose. Using the well-known image of the temple as a sacred building, he compares the believers to the very dwelling of God. This is a profound insight; we are holy and living stones within whom the Spirit of God finds a home.

Prayers  

To the living God, we pray:

♦ Lord, hear our prayer.

That justice reign in the hearts of all leaders, we pray to the Lord: ♦ That joy and peace reign in the hearts of all pastoral leaders, we pray to the Lord: ♦ That beauty reign in the hearts of all artists, we pray to the Lord: ♦ That courage and strength reign in the heart of the Body of Christ, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

Eternal God, you have chosen your people to be a living witness of your providence and to give you glory by their lives of faith. May the beauty of our souls and the spirit of our love be a worthy sign of your presence in the world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† O Lord, you have probed me and you know me.
Memorial of St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

† I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

Psalm 63

Reading

Matthew 23:8–12

This reading is taken from the Common of Doctors of the Church.

[Jesus spoke to the crowds and to his disciples:] “Do not be called ‘Rabbi.’ You have but one teacher, and you are all brothers. Call no one on earth your father; you have but one Father in heaven. Do not be called ‘Master’; you have but one master, the Christ. The greatest among you must be your servant. Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”

Reflection

On several occasions, Jesus teaches his disciples that their self-identity is to be quite different than the popular status of master and servant. It was a common custom for people of Jesus’ time to have servants who waited on their master. Jesus turns this thinking upside down. The role of the disciple was to be a servant, one who considered the needs of others before their own. This kind of thinking allows that only the Lord is master and teacher; no one on earth has that position. Thus, all are equal before the Father, and all are equally loved.

Prayers

In your love, O God, hear us when we pray:

♦ Lord, hear us this day.

For all who are in positions of power, may they lead with respect and fairness, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For all those who assist with the pastoral mission of the Church, may they serve with joy, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For our parishes, may they model an attitude of stewardship, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For all who have taken up ministries of care for the sick, may they find satisfaction in their work, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

Almighty and ever-living God, you watch over the work of the Church that she might bring to completion your saving plan for all peoples. Through the intercession of St. Leo, a successor to the Apostles, may we be bold witnesses to the teachings of your Son Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

† I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
† The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 148

Reading  

Luke 17:11–19

As Jesus continued his journey to Jerusalem, he traveled through Samaria and Galilee. As he was entering a village, ten lepers met him. They stood at a distance from him and raised their voice, saying, “Jesus, Master! Have pity on us!” And when he saw them, he said, “Go show yourselves to the priests.” As they were going they were cleansed. And one of them, realizing he had been healed, returned, glorifying God in a loud voice; and he fell at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. He was a Samaritan. Jesus said in reply, “Ten were cleansed, were they not? Where are the other nine? Has none but this foreigner returned to give thanks to God?” Then he said to him, “Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”

Reflection

Today’s reading contains two important teachings. First, the compassion of God is unconditional, no one is excluded from the love of the Father. The plight of a person with leprosy was extremely hurtful, not only from the disease but because of the social stigma. Jesus breaks through that barrier and heals all ten of the lepers. Second, Jesus teaches the importance of gratitude for the mercy that comes to us from him, and from others who take care of us. When we act in the Lord’s name, and act like him, we are blessed and our works give praise to God.

Prayers  

In your love, O God, hear us when we pray:

✦ Lord, hear us this day.

For an increase in resources for all those who suffer, we pray to the Lord: ✦
For those who have been shunned because of their social status or their way of life, we pray to the Lord: ✦ For all those who work in health care, we pray to the Lord: ✦ For all among us who are ill or who suffer from any sickness, we pray to the Lord: ✦

Our Father . . .

Good and gracious God, you watch over your beloved people with compassion and kindness. Through the intercession of St. Martin of Tours, who gave us an example of love for the poor, may we imitate his holiness and be grateful for the love which is ours through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

† The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
† Your word, O Lord, endures forever; it is firm as the heavens.

Psalm 71

Reading

John 12:24–26

This reading is taken from the Common of Martyrs.

Jesus said to his disciples: “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

Reflection

Jesus uses the cycle of planting and harvesting to teach his disciples about the mystery of death and resurrection. It would have been an analogy that his listeners understood from their own experience as they depended on the land for their livelihood. We may not all be farmers, but we understand the cycle of life. Even during life there are times when we need to die to certain practices in order that something more life-giving may arise. As a new harvest can come forth from the seed of grain, we can bring forth a harvest of kindness and respect in our words and our works.

Prayers

Hearing in your love, O Lord, we pray:

◆ Hear us this day.

For all who have nourished us in our journey of faith, we pray to the Lord:◆
For all who have planted the seeds of hope in this world, we pray to the Lord:◆
For all who have planted and harvested the crops, we pray to the Lord:◆
For those who have died, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .

In your great providence, O God, you have cared for your people in every generation. In his dedication for unity in the Christian Church, your servant, Josaphat, was a witness to your desire that all peoples should live in communion and peace. May we be strengthened by that same fervor and spirit of sacrifice. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Your word, O Lord, endures forever; it is firm as the heavens.
Friday, November 13, 2020
Memorial of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin and Religious

† With all my heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commands.

Psalm 148  page 422

Reading  2 John 4–8

[Chosen Lady:] I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth just as we were commanded by the Father. But now, Lady, I ask you, not as though I were writing a new commandment but the one we have had from the beginning: let us love one another. For this is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, as you heard from the beginning, in which you should walk.

Many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh; such is the deceitful one and the anti-christ. Look to yourselves that you do not lose what we worked for but may receive a full recompense.

Reflection
The feast of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini has a special place in the hearts of American Catholics. She is the first citizen of the United States to be canonized. She was a tireless advocate for the poor and for those who were sick. She established over sixty religious houses for sisters who shared her mission. She took to heart the teachings of St. Paul who exhorted his listeners to make their “kindness known to all.” Mother Cabrini’s example of a Christlike life gives us encouragement in ministering in whatever ways we can so that others might find healing and peace.

Prayers  others may be added

God, listen to our prayers, as we pray:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who care for the poor and needy, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those who work with immigrants, we pray to the Lord:◆ For Church leaders, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those who minister to the sick and the dying, we pray to the Lord:

Our Father . . .

Merciful God,
you called Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini to be a servant of those who were in great need of compassion and comfort.
Give us the grace to learn from her example of tireless devotion to the poor and to be a witness in our own lives of the Christ-like ministry she left us.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

† With all my heart I seek you; let me not stray from your commands.
† Sing to the Lord, sing his praise; proclaim his wondrous deeds.

Psalm 103

Reading

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, “There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, ‘Render a just decision for me against my adversary.’ For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, ‘While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.’” The Lord said, “Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Reflection

The exercise of prayer is at the heart of our spiritual life. Whether we use memorized prayers or spontaneous ones, whether we include words or simply remain silent, we pray. We truly believe that God hears our prayers; we sometimes struggle with understanding how or when God responds. The story of the widow who persists in her entreaty before the judge gives us hope that our pleas will be answered. But God is not a judge, handing out favors just because we beg. God is more like a parent who knows what’s best for us. Sometimes we have to be patient and trust in that love.

Prayers

In you we trust, O God, and pray:

♦ Loving God, hear our prayer.

For widows and widowers, may their lives be fruitful and joyful, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For the hopeless, may they find a sense of purpose in serving others, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For all who volunteer as companions for the elderly, may they find joy through such kindness, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For the senior members of our parish, in thanksgiving for their wisdom, we pray to the Lord. ♦

Our Father . . .

Eternal and merciful God, we trust in your kindness and give thanks for the abundant grace you bestow on us. Hear our prayers in times of need and lend your ear to our cries for blessings in this life. May our gratitude be a sign of our trust in your providence and bring us one day to be with you and with your Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

† Sing to the Lord, sing his praise; proclaim his wondrous deeds.
† To be near to the Lord is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

Psalm 30

Reading Matthew 25:14–15, 19–21

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

“After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’”

Reflection

Like most parables, this one has more than one interpretation. The talents could be considered the gifts that God gives us to use fruitfully in life. Or the talents might be a symbol of our astuteness and stewardship of the resources we have managed to accumulate in life. Yet another interpretation is seeing the trust that God places in us in the first place. After all, it is God’s Kingdom with which we have been entrusted. God “goes on a journey,” leaving us to do God’s work. What a privilege! And we take care of God’s gifts, not because we have to, but because we want to.

Prayers others may be added

Trust in you, God, we pray:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

That leaders of nations be filled with generosity, we pray to the Lord:◆

That Catholic Charities continue to witness God’s compassion, we pray to the Lord:◆

That corporate leaders grow in the spirit of wisdom, we pray to the Lord:◆

That the sick and dying may find rest in the Christ, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .

Your care for us, O God, is beyond all measure and never ceases to strengthen our desire to serve you.

Grant that we show our gratitude by living justly, always mindful of the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

† To be near to the Lord is my happiness; to place my hope in God the Lord.
† Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.

Psalm 33

Reading  

Luke 18:35–43

As Jesus approached Jericho a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging, and hearing a crowd going by, he inquired what was happening. They told him, “Jesus of Nazareth is passing by.” He shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me!” The people walking in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent, but he kept calling out all the more, “Son of David, have pity on me!” Then Jesus stopped and ordered that he be brought to him; and when he came near, Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?” He replied, “Lord, please let me see.” Jesus told him, “Have sight; your faith has saved you.” He immediately received his sight and followed him, giving glory to God. When they saw this, all the people gave praise to God.

Reflection

The healing of the blind man is not as simple as it first seems. Like all of Jesus’ healing encounters, there is always more to the story. The plea of the man, “Lord, please let me see,” may be a cry for the return of his sight, but Jesus “sees” differently. Here is a person whose faith wants more. He wants to enter the world beyond his isolation. He wants to belong. When he is healed, he begins a new journey by following Jesus. To be able to see into the world of the Lord is indeed a gift.

Prayers

To the Lord who heals us, we pray:

♦ Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For all those who live with a loss of physical sight, we pray to the Lord: ♦
For those who cannot see the needs of their brothers and sisters, we pray: ♦
For elected leaders who have lost sight of the needs of the poor, we pray to the Lord: ♦
For those who dedicate their lives so that others might be able to live well with their disabilities, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

God, who protect the poor and lift up the outcast, grant to us the fire of your love, that we might serve with sincerity and courage all those whom you have chosen to be your own.

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.

Amen.

† Give me life, O Lord, and I will do your commands.
Tuesday, November 17, 2020
Memorial of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

† You, O Lord, are my shield; my glory, you lift up my head!

Psalm 25

Reading
Luke 19:2–6

Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy.

Reflection
The encounter between Jesus and Zacchaeus, and the latter’s conversion is one of the most delightful stories in the Gospel. Like Zacchaeus we all want to “see” Jesus, and we would be overjoyed, and maybe a little nervous, if he came to our house for dinner. But there is a serious side to this encounter. Jesus’ presence invites a change of heart, a transformation. Zacchaeus responds with a promise to change his life. His example of repentance and future generosity sets a high standard for us. Can we do likewise?

Prayers

In your kindness, O God, hear us this day:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church who witnesses the mercy of the Father, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For penitents who seek to live in love, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For those who desire forgiveness, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For those who are sick and dying, we pray to the Lord: ◆

Our Father . . .

In your great mercy, O God, you have sent your Son, Jesus Christ, to bring the grace of reconciliation to the world. Through the sacrifice of the Cross he has won for us the forgiveness of our sins and opened the gates of heaven. Through the intercession of St. Elizabeth may we live lives worthy of such great love. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† You, O Lord, are my shield; my glory, you lift up my head!
† Lord, when your glory appears, my joy will be full.

Psalm 96  

Reading  


[Jesus] said, “A nobleman went off to a distant country to obtain the kingship for himself and then to return. He called ten of his servants and gave them ten gold coins and told them, ‘Engage in trade with these until I return. . . .[The final] servant came and said, ‘Sir, here is your gold coin; I kept it stored away in a handkerchief, for I was afraid of you, because you are a demanding person; you take up what you did not lay down and you harvest what you did not plant.’ He said to him, ‘With your own words I shall condemn you, you wicked servant. You knew I was a demanding person, taking up what I did not lay down and harvesting what I did not plant.’”

Reflection  

This parable has several versions in the Gospel accounts. The point of the parable revolves around the stewardship of the servants of the nobleman. Each of them was given the same amount of gold coins to trade with. Those who did well were rewarded; the one who buried his coins was severely chastised. One interpretation of this parable is to regard the coins as the graces or the gifts that God bestows on us. Like the coins, our gifts increase when we share with others. The grace of God is meant to flow through us so that others may know the goodness of God’s love.

Prayers  

We look to you, O God, and pray:

◆ Loving God, hear our prayer.

That leaders of nations work to promote peace and charity, we pray to the Lord:◆ That charitable agencies work for justice and show compassion, we pray to the Lord:◆ That those who have lost their belongings through natural disasters find relief from their communities, we pray to the Lord:◆ That health care workers be most attentive to those who are seriously ill, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .

Almighty and ever-gracious God, your justice and mercy have always been bestowed on us without condition. Grant that we may be wise stewards of all that you have given to us, imitating the boundless love we have inherited from Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

† Lord, when your glory appears my heart will be full.
† If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

Psalm 97

Reading

As Jesus drew near Jerusalem, he saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If this day you only knew what makes for peace—but now it is hidden from your eyes. For the days are coming upon you when your enemies will raise a palisade against you; they will encircle you and hem you in on all sides. They will smash you to the ground and your children within you, and they will not leave one stone upon another within you because you did not recognize the time of your visitation.”

Reflection

Near the end of Luke’s account of the Gospel, Jesus arrives in Jerusalem. Today’s passage follows Jesus’ entry into the city, an event the Church celebrates on Palm Sunday. Jesus is aware of his impending suffering, and he weeps over the city where this will take place. His anguish is based on his love for the people and on his fear that they will experience persecution because of him. We know what a great gift it is to know people so well that they feel our pain when we suffer, people who literally weep for us in our times of struggle. How blessed we are to know that Jesus loves us that much.

Prayers

Hold us in your great love, O God, as we pray:

♦ Loving God, hear our prayer.

For all people who suffer from persecution and violence, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For children who are victims of war and abuse, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For international agencies who bring perpetrators to justice, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For members of our families and our parishes who suffer in silence, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

In your eternal love, O God, hear the cries of those who suffer and live in the darkness of pain and anxiety. You alone can redeem them and give them hope. May we be willing messengers of your compassion. 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. Amen.

† If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.
† We praise your glorious name,  
   O mighty God.

Psalm 105  page 413

Reading  Luke 19:45–48
Jesus entered the temple area and proceeded to drive out those who were selling things, saying to them, “It is written, My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves.” And every day he was teaching in the temple area. The chief priests, the scribes, and the leaders of the people, meanwhile, were seeking to put him to death, but they could find no way to accomplish their purpose because all the people were hanging on his words.

Reflection
It was common for market stalls to be adjacent to the temple. It seems the merchants had either taken over more space than they needed, or had become a distraction to those who came to worship, and Jesus was not very happy with the situation. One can easily make a connection between that situation and our modern day fixation on shopping, even on the Lord’s Day. The “no shopping on Sunday” law has long been set aside in most places, but we have lost a sense of Sunday as being the Lord’s Day. Going to church is often a stop on our way to the mall. Today’s reading should cause us to stop and reflect on how we keep holy the day of the Lord.

Prayers others may be added
Let our gaze be on you, O God, as we pray:

♦ Lord, hear our prayer.

For laborers, we pray to the Lord: ♦
For health care workers and first responders, we pray to the Lord: ♦
For the sick, we pray to the Lord: ♦
For pastoral workers, liturgists, and musicians, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

O God, you are our life and our salvation. Grant us the strength to overcome the distractions of worldly pursuits and to keep our gaze always fixed on the treasures of heaven. 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. Amen.

† We praise your glorious name,  
   O mighty God.
I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart.

Canticle of Mary

Reading
Luke 2:25–32

This reading is taken from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”

Reflection

Today’s memorial, which has no Scriptural reference, is based on the pious tradition that Mary was presented at the Temple and was educated in the traditions of her ancestors. When Mary and Joseph take Jesus to present him at the Temple, the devout man Simeon greets them. His greeting is a hymn of praise for the great event of Jesus’ birth. Although Mary and Joseph wonder about Simeon’s prophecy, they accept this mystery as part of God’s plan. Their act of faith is an example for us.

Prayers

In trust, O God, we pray:

♦ Gracious God, hear our prayer.

That the Church be a sign of Mary’s trust in the way of the Lord, we pray to the Lord: ♦ That parents be faithful in teaching their children the message of the Gospel, we pray to the Lord: ♦ That we strive to imitate Mary’s humility and fidelity in our spiritual life, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For those who care for young children who are dealing with illness, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

As we honor the gift of Mary to the Church, we pray, O God, that through her intercession we may follow her example of humble service and live our faith so that we give you praise and glory in all we do.

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.

Amen.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart.
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 23

Reading

Matthew 25:31–36

Jesus said to his disciples: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him. And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father. . . . For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.’”

Reflection

Matthew’s account of the Last Judgement never fails to cause us to seriously examine our behavior as disciples of Jesus. The words of Jesus—as often as you did this, or did not do this, to one of the least ones, you did it to me—cut through all our excuses and any spiritual smugness we might have. The needs of our brothers and sisters are as prevalent today as in the time of Jesus. Each of us can recall examples of when we responded, and when we did not reach out. This reading could well be our daily examination of conscience.

Prayers

In your love, O God, hear us:

◆ Lord, hear our prayer.

That elected leaders enact policies that serve the most vulnerable, we pray to the Lord:
◆ That Church leaders find new ways to reach out to those whose lives are fragile and whose resources are scarce, we pray to the Lord:
◆ That we be especially attentive to those among us who are in need of our assistance, we pray to the Lord:
◆ That those who live alone and those who suffer in any way be comforted by caring members of the Church, we pray to the Lord:

Our Father . . .

In your unbounded goodness, O God, you sent your Son to be a shepherd for all your people. Bestow on us the virtue of courage that we might imitate his compassion. Grow within us a spirit of servant-leadership that we might imitate his ministry. 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. Amen.

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.
Blessed are you, O Lord, and exalted above all forever.

Psalm 145

Reading Luke 21:1–4
When Jesus looked up he saw some wealthy people putting their offerings into the treasury and he noticed a poor widow putting in two small coins. He said, “I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood.”

Reflection
The widow’s contribution to the treasury, sometimes called the “widow’s mite,” stirs our conscience. The action of the widow is a twofold teaching. First, she is a devout woman, following the expected custom to contribute to the temple treasury which was used to help those in need. One thinks that she would be a worthy recipient. Second, despite her poverty and obvious need, she makes a sacrifice so others can benefit. How we help the poor is a personal matter; but for the followers of the Lord, it is not optional.

Prayers

To the God who loves us, we pray:

◆ Loving God, hear our prayer.

That those countries with a surplus of goods make bigger sacrifices for those in need, we pray to the Lord: ◆ That the Church be a visible example of concern for those who must survive on meagre resources, we pray to the Lord: ◆ That charitable agencies not lose hope in their efforts to provide assistance to those who are in most need, we pray to the Lord: ◆ That our own hearts be more generous to appeals to provide food and shelter for the homeless, we pray to the Lord: ◆

Our Father . . .

Eternal God, your providence is abundant and your mercy overflows. Inspire the hearts of your faithful that we might imitate the example of the poor widow and lift up those who are in most need of your love through our practice of charity. 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. Amen.

Blessed are you, O Lord, and exalted above all forever.
† Bless the Lord, all you works of the
Lord, both now and forever.

Psalm 139

Reading

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, “All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

Then they asked him, “Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?” He answered, “See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and ‘The time has come.’ Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end.”

Reflection

Today’s feast honors the martyrdom of 117 missionaries during several persecutions in Vietnam in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Their witness to the faith is a striking example of Jesus’ own suffering on behalf of all of us. In the Gospel, Jesus exhorts his disciples not to be deceived by those who would try to divert their loyalty from his teaching. He encourages them to reject false teachers and to withstand persecutions. We may not be asked to endure martyrdom for our faith, but we need to stand firm against all manner of temptations in our world today.

Prayers

With faith in you, O God, we pray:

◆ Lord hear our prayer.

For all who are persecuted because of their religious beliefs, we pray to the Lord: ◆
For leaders of nations, that they protect minorities from acts of violence, we pray to the Lord: ◆
For those who speak out boldly against all manner of hatred and prejudice, we pray to the Lord: ◆
For ourselves, that we be courageous in our defense of Gospel values, we pray to the Lord: ◆

Our Father . . .

All-powerful God, we turn to you in every need, placing our trust in your unbounded mercy.
Hear our prayer this day that we be unwavering in our faith and always ready to take up our cross in the name of Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

† Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord, both now and forever.
† Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God.

Psalm 89

Reading

Luke 21:12–18

Jesus said to the crowd: “They will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed.”

Reflection

Most of chapter 21 in Luke’s account of the Gospel contains dire warnings of impending tribulations and persecutions for believers. These may happen in the near future, or be prophecies of events at the end of time. These are fitting readings for these last days of the Church’s liturgical year. The uncertainty of the time of these trials leaves the listener fearful. But Jesus assures them, and us, that we will not be forgotten or abandoned. He will give us the courage and strength to endure; the love of God, which is greater than human events. He assure us, “not a hair on your head will be destroyed.”

Prayers

We turn to you, O God, and pray:

◆ Loving God, hear our prayer.

That those who are in positions of power work to protect the weak and the vulnerable, we pray to the Lord:◆ That those who are victims of persecution find justice in international courts of law, we pray to the Lord:◆ That those who live on the margins of society find the resources they need to be healthy and secure, we pray to the Lord:◆ For those who have lost hope, or who suffer from depression, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .

God of all ages, you will that every person should be saved and none be lost. Bestow your endless grace on all those who seek your abiding mercy and grant to us some share in the eternal light of your kingdom. 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. Amen.

† Great and wonderful are all your works, Lord, mighty God.
† Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness.

Psalm 138

Reading  

[Jesus said to his disciples:] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

Reflection

Jesus’ dire predictions about the fall of Jerusalem continue. The destruction of the city is due to the people’s rejection of the peaceful reign of God that is personified in Jesus Christ. This historical event points to the future coming of the Son of Man in glory. But the faithful of God are not to be alarmed; their faith will save them and redemption will be theirs. Despite the somber, almost frightening tone of this reading, we are meant to be encouraged by Jesus’ words. God will not desert a faithful people. The salvation won by Jesus Christ will be fulfilled.

Prayers  

Other may be added

Trust in the Lord, we pray:

◆ Lord, save us.

That we not lose hope because of the negative forces in the world, we pray to the Lord:◆ That modern day prophets courageously call us to conversion, we pray to the Lord:◆ That those who suffer upheaval in their lives from natural disasters find new energy to rebuild their lives, we pray to the Lord:◆ That those who are near death be comforted by the prayers and presence of a loving family, we pray to the Lord:

Our Father . . .

God of all ages, the one who is, who was, and who is to come, enkindle in us a longing for your eternal kingdom. Grant us the endurance we need in times of trial, and an unwavering trust in your promise of salvation. 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. Amen.

† Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness.
Friday, November 27, 2020
Weekday

† My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.

Psalm 47

Reading  
Luke 21:29–33
Jesus told his disciples a parable. “Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

Reflection

The presence of cosmic signs in the Scriptures is an indication of a divine manifestation, a theophany. In those times a new revelation by God and of God is made to the people of God. This kind of language is not to be taken literally, despite the assertions of some current religious groups and cults. Jesus tells us that the coming of the Son of Man will be an astonishing event; but it will be one of glory and power. In those times our hope will be realized; we will stand in joy and confidence before God.

Prayers

Trusting that God makes all things new, we pray:

♦ Hear us, O Lord.

For all departed souls, and for those who mourn their loss, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For those in grief ministries, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For widows and widowers, we pray to the Lord: ♦ For those who fear death and dying, we pray to the Lord: ♦

Our Father . . .

God of infinite love and mercy, we place ourselves in the tender embrace of your divine care. We have always trusted in your promise of eternal life. May we not lose heart, but continue our earthly journey with the assurance of the redemption won for us by Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

† My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.
† Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord who made us.

Psalm 95

Reading

Jesus said to his disciples: “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap. For that day will assault everyone who lives on the face of the earth. Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Reflection

Jesus offers one last instruction to his disciples about being prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. This admonition is typical of Luke who regards the pleasures and worries of the world as lurking in wait for the unprepared. We know from our own experience that all manner of temptations can sneak up on us and catch us unawares, and then we make choices that we later regret. Jesus calls us to be alert at all times; maintaining a vigilance that is rooted in his love and strengthened by our prayer.

Prayers

Trusting in your mercy, O God, we pray:

◆ Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For young people, may they have the courage to resist the temptations of today, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For those who struggle with addictions, may the Holy Spirit strengthen them on the journey, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For those discerning options in their life, may they grow in wisdom and courage, we pray to the Lord: ◆ For those who have to make choices about their long term health care, we pray to the Lord: ◆

Our Father . . .

Almighty and ever-living God, your promise of salvation has been revealed to the nations through your Son, Jesus Christ. Through his death on the cross, we have been redeemed, and by the grace of his Resurrection we have been numbered among the elect. May we ever rejoice in this 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. Amen.

† Come, let us bow down in worship; let us kneel before the Lord who made us.
† Lord, let us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.

Psalm 89 page 408

Reading Mark 13:33–37
Jesus said to his disciples: “Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’”

Reflection
Today’s reading sets the tone for the Season of Advent. The Gospel’s servants were physically watching for the return of their master; our watching is of a spiritual nature. Our readiness to welcome the Lord rests in our heart. There we sort through the obstacles that prevent us from recognizing the Lord in the midst of our lives; that is, things like busy schedules that interfere with a time for prayer; like a singular focus on our own interests at the expense of the needs of others; like a hectic social schedule that keeps us from the liturgical celebrations of the Church. Be alert.

Prayers others may be added

Waiting in hope, we pray:

♦ Come, Lord Jesus.

To all those who are suffering with sickness and pain, we pray: ◆ To all those who are mourning the death of a loved one, we pray: ◆ To all those who are returning to the sacraments, we pray: ◆ To all those who are reuniting with their families this Christmas, we pray: ◆

Our Father . . .

Ever-loving God, your chosen people were a people of great hope and you did not disappoint them as they waited for your salvation. Grant to us, who await the glorious return of your Son, glad and joyful hearts.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

† Lord, let us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.
† Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Psalm 122  page 418

Reading  Matthew 4:18–22
As Jesus was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him.

Reflection
The apostle Andrew seems to have lived in the shadow of his more famous brother, Simon Peter. But Andrew was one of the pillars of the early Church; his fierce faith led to his death by crucifixion in Greece. Like the other apostles, Andrew was called to be another kind of fisherman. But before he could “catch” others in the net of the Lord’s teaching, he allowed himself to be caught by Jesus. That is the way of the disciple. If we are to gather others into the way of the Lord, we must first be true followers. Otherwise our words and actions are shallow.

Prayers  others may be added
We trust you, O God, and we pray:

◆ Loving God, hear our prayer.
For all teachers, parents, and catechists as they lead others to know and love the Lord, we pray:◆ For those who are advocates for the protection of the environment, we pray:◆ For those who are struggling with serious illness, and for those who care for them, we pray:◆ For everyone who helps us to be faithful in our ministry and to be joyful in our labors, we pray to the Lord:◆

Our Father . . .
In your providence, O God, you have called forth leaders for your people that we might find our way to you and live in the grace of your commands. Through the intercession of St. Andrew, may we be fearless in our witness to your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

† Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.
Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6
Blessed the man who follows not
the counsel of the wicked
Nor walks in the way of sinners,
   nor sits in the company of the insolent,
But delights in the law of the LORD
   and meditates on his law day and night.

He is like a tree
   planted near running water,
That yields its fruit in due season,
   and whose leaves never fade.
Whatever he does, prospers.

Not so the wicked, not so;
   they are like chaff, which the wind drives away.
For the LORD watches over the way of the just,
   but the way of the wicked vanishes.

Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11
The law of the LORD is perfect,
   refreshing the soul,
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
   giving wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
   rejoicing the heart.
The command of the LORD is clear,
   enlightening the eye.

The fear of the LORD is pure,
   enduring forever.
The ordinances of the LORD are true,
   all of them just.
Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
   In verdant pastures he gives me repose;
Beside restful waters he leads me;
   he refreshes my soul.

He guides me in right paths
   for his name’s sake.
Even though I walk in the dark valley
   I fear no evil; for you are at my side
With your rod and your staff
   that give me courage.

You spread the table before me
   In the sight of my foes;
You anoint my head with oil;
   my cup overflows.

Only goodness and kindness follow me
   all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
   for years to come.
Psalm 24:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–10

The LORD's are the earth and its fullness;
the world and those who dwell in it.
For he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the rivers.

Who can ascend the mountain of the LORD?
or who may stand in his holy place?
One whose hands are sinless, whose heart is clean,
who desires not what is vain.

He shall receive a blessing from the LORD,
a reward from God his savior.
Such is the race that seeks for him,
that seeks the face of the God of Jacob.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory?
The LORD, strong and mighty,
The LORD, mighty in battle.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels;
reach up, you ancient portals,
that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory?
The LORD of hosts; he is the king of glory.
Psalm 25:2–3, 4–5ab, 6 and 7bc
In you I trust; let me not be put to shame,
    let not my enemies exult over me.
No one who waits for you shall be put to shame;
    those shall be put to shame who heedlessly break faith.

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.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
    and your kindness are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
    because of your goodness, O LORD.

Psalm 27:7–8a, 8b–9abc, 13–14
Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;
    have pity on me, and answer me.
Of you my heart speaks; you my glance seeks.

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.

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.
Psalm 30:2–4, 11–13
I praise you, L ORD, for you raised me up
    and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.
O L ORD, my God,
    I cried out to you for help and you healed me.
L ORD, you brought my soul up from Sheol;
    you let me live, from going down to the pit

Hear, O L ORD, have mercy on me;
    L ORD, be my helper.”

You changed my mourning into dancing;
    you took off my sackcloth
    and clothed me with gladness.
So that my glory may praise you
    and not be silent.
O L ORD, my God,
    forever will I give you thanks.

Psalm 33:4–5, 18–19, 20, 22
Upright is the word of the L ORD,
    and all his works are trustworthy.
He loves justice and right;
    of the kindness of the L ORD the earth is full.

See, the eyes of the L ORD are upon those who fear him,
    upon those who hope for his kindness,
To deliver them from death
    and preserve them in spite of famine.

Our soul waits for the L ORD,
    who is our help and our shield.
May your kindness, O L ORD, be upon us
    who have put our hope in you.
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7–8, 8–9, 10
I have waited, waited for the LORD
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.

Sacrifice or oblation you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
thен said I, “Behold, I come.”

“In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
to do your will, O my God, is my delight,
and your law is within my heart!”

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

Psalm 41:2–3, 4–5, 13–14
Blessed is the one who has regard for the lowly and the poor;
in the day of misfortune the LORD will deliver him.
The LORD will keep and preserve him;
and make him blessed on earth,
and not give him over to the will of his enemies.

The LORD will help him on his sickbed,
he will take away all his ailment when he is ill.
Once I said, “O LORD, have pity on me;
heal me, though I have sinned against you.”

But because of my integrity you sustain me
and let me stand before you forever.
Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
**Psalm 47:2–3, 6–7, 8–9**

All you peoples, clap your hands,
shout to God with cries of gladness.
For the LORD, the Most High, the awesome,
is the great king over all the earth.

God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy;
the LORD, amid trumpet blasts.
Sing praise to God, sing praise;
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

For king of all the earth is God;
sing hymns of praise.
God reigns over the nations,
God sits upon his holy throne.

**Psalm 51:3–4, 5–6a, 6b–7**

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.

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”—

That you may be justified in your sentence,
vindicated when you condemn.
Indeed, in guilt was I born,
and in sin my mother conceived me.
Psalm 54:3–8
O God, by your name save me.
   By your strength defend my cause.
O God, hear my prayer.
   Listen to the words of my mouth.
Strangers have risen against me;
   the ruthless seek my life;
   they do not keep God before them

God is present as my helper;
   the Lord sustains my life.
Turn back the evil upon my foes;
   in your faithfulness, destroy them
Then I will offer you generous sacrifice
   and give thanks to your name, LORD, for it is good.

Psalm 63:2, 3–4, 5–6, 8–9
O God, you are my God, whom I seek;
   for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts.

Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary
   to see your power and your glory,
For your kindness is a greater good than life;
   my lips shall glorify you.

Thus I will bless you as I live;
   lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.
As with the riches of the banquet shall my soul be satisfied,
   and with exultant lips my mouth shall praise you.

You are my help,
   and in the shadow of your wings I shout for joy.
My soul clings fast to you;
   your right hand upholds me.
Psalm 65:2–3a, 5, 6, 8–10a, 12–13

To you we owe our hymn of praise,
    O God on Zion;
To you our vows must be fulfilled,
    you who hear our prayers.

Blessed the one whom you will choose and bring
    to dwell in your courts.
May we be filled with the good things of your house,
    your holy temple!

You answer us with awesome deeds of justice,
    O God our savior,
The hope of all the ends of the earth
    and of those far off across the sea

You still the roaring of the seas,
    the roaring of their waves,
    the tumult of the peoples.
Distant peoples stand in awe of your marvels;
    the places of morning and evening you make resound with joy.
You visit the earth and water it,
    make it abundantly fertile.

You adorn the year with your bounty;
    your paths drip with fruitful rain.
The meadows of the wilderness also drip;
    the hills are robed with joy.
Psalm 71:1–2, 3–4a, 5–6, 15, 17
In you, O LORD, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, and deliver me;
incline your ear to me, and save me.

Be my rock of refuge,
a stronghold to give me safety,
for you are my rock and my fortress.
O my God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked.

For you are my hope, O LORD;
my trust, O God, from my youth.
On you I depend from birth;
from my mother’s womb you are my strength.

My mouth shall declare your justice,
day by day your salvation.
O God, you have taught me from my youth,
and till the present I proclaim your wondrous deeds.

Psalm 72:1–2, 7–8, 12–13, 17
O God, with your judgment endow the king,
and with your justice, the king’s son;
He shall govern your people with justice
and your afflicted ones with judgment.

Justice shall flower in his days,
and profound peace, till the moon be no more.
May he rule from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

He shall rescue the poor man when he cries out,
and the afflicted when he has no one to help him.
He shall have pity for the lowly and the poor;
the lives of the poor he shall save.

May his name be blessed forever;
as long as the sun his name shall remain.
In him shall all the tribes of the earth be blessed;
all the nations shall proclaim his happiness.
Psalm 85:8 and 10, 11–12, 13–14
Show us, O LORD, your mercy,
and grant us your salvation.
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him,
glory dwelling in our land.

Kindness and truth shall meet;
justice and peace shall kiss.
Truth shall spring out of the earth,
and justice shall look down from heaven.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;
our land shall yield its increase.
Justice shall walk before him,
and salvation, along the way of his steps.

Psalm 86:5–6, 9–10, 15–16
You, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in kindness to all who call upon you.
Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer
and attend to the sound of my pleading.

All the nations you have made shall come
and worship you, O Lord,
and glorify your name.
For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds;
you alone are God.

You, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity.
Turn toward me, and have pity on me;
give your strength to your servant.

Psalm 89:2–3, 4–5, 27 and 29
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.
“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.”

“He shall say of me, ‘You are my father,
   my God, the Rock, my savior.’
Forever I will maintain my kindness toward him,
   and my covenant with him stands firm.”

Psalm 91:1–4, 9–12, 15–16

You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
   who abide in the shade of the Almighty,
Say to the LORD, “My refuge and fortress,
   my God in whom I trust.”
He will rescue you from the fowler’s snare,
   from the destroying plague,
He will shelter you with his pinions,
   and under his wings you may take refuge;
his faithfulness is a protecting shield.

Because you have the LORD for your refuge
   and have made the Most High your stronghold,
No evil shall befall you,
   no affliction come near your tent.
For he commands his angels with regard to you,
   to guard you wherever you go.
With their hands they shall support you,
   lest you strike your foot against a stone.

He will call upon me and I will answer;
   I will be with him in distress;
   I will deliver him and give him honor.
With length of days I will satisfy him,
   and fill him with my saving power.
Psalm 92:2–4, 5–6, 13–14
It is good to give thanks to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, Most High,
To proclaim your love at daybreak,
your faithfulness in the night,
With the ten-stringed harp,
with melody upon the lyre.

For you make me jubilant, LORD, by your deeds;
at the works of your hands I shout for joy.
How great are your works, LORD!
How profound your designs!

The just shall flourish like the palm tree,
shall grow like a cedar of Lebanon.
Planted in the house of the LORD,
they shall flourish in the courts of our God.

Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9
Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;
let us acclaim the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Come, let us bow down in worship;
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.
For he is our God,
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as in the day of Massah in the desert,
where your fathers tempted me;
they tested me though they had seen my works.”
Psalm 96:1–2, 2–3, 11–12, 13
Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous deeds.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and what fills it resound;
let the plains be joyful and all that is in them!
Then shall all the trees of the forest exult.

They shall exult before the LORD, for he comes;
for he comes to rule the earth.
He shall rule the world with justice
and the peoples with his constancy.

Psalm 97:1, 6, 11–12
The LORD is king; let earth rejoice;
let the many isles be glad.
The heavens proclaim his justice,
and all peoples see his glory.

Light dawns for the just;
and gladness, for the upright of heart.
Be glad in the LORD, you just,
and give thanks to his holy name.
Psalm 98:1, 2–3, 3–4, 5–6
Sing to the L ORD a new song,  
for he has done wondrous deeds;  
His right hand has won victory for him,  
his holy arm.

The L ORD 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.

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

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

Psalm 103:1–2, 3–4, 9–10, 11–12
Bless the L ORD, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless his holy name.  
Bless the L ORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits.

He pardons all your iniquities,  
he heals all your ills.  
He redeems your life from destruction,  
he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

He will not always chide,  
nor does he keep his wrath forever.  
Not according to our sins does he deal with us,  
nor does he requite us according to our crimes.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,  
so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.  
As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he put our transgressions from us.
Psalm 104:1–2a, 5–6, 10, 12, 24 and 35
Bless the LORD, O my soul!
    O LORD, my God, you are great indeed!
You are clothed with majesty and glory,
    robed in light as with a cloak.

You fixed the earth upon its foundation,
    not to be moved forever;
With the ocean, as with a garment, you covered it;
    above the mountain the waters stood.

You send forth springs into the watercourses
    that wind among the mountains.
Beside them the birds of heaven dwell;
    from among the branches they send forth their song.

How manifold are your works, O LORD!
    In wisdom you have wrought them all—
the earth is full of your creatures;
    Bless the LORD, O my soul! Alleluia.

Psalm 105:1–8
Give thanks to the LORD, invoke his name;
    make known among the peoples his deeds!
Sing praise to him, play music;
    proclaim all his wondrous deeds!
Glory in his holy name;
    let hearts that seek the LORD rejoice!
Seek out the LORD and his might;
    constantly seek his face.
Recall the wondrous deeds he has done,
    his wonders and words of judgment,
You descendants of Abraham his servant,
    offspring of Jacob the chosen one!
He the LORD, is our God
    whose judgments reach through all the earth.
He remembers forever his covenant,
    the word he commanded for a thousand generations.
Psalm 111:1–4, 5–7, 8–10

Hallelujah!
I will praise the LORD with all my heart
   in the assembled congregation of the upright.
Great are the works of the LORD,
   studied by all who delight in them.
Majestic and glorious is his work,
   his righteousness endures forever.
He won renown for his wondrous deeds;
   gracious and merciful is the LORD.

He gives food to those who fear him,
   he remembers his covenant forever.
He showed his powerful deeds to his people,
   giving them the inheritance of the nations.
The works of his hands are true and just,
   reliable all his decrees,
Established forever and ever,
   to be observed with truth and equity.
He sent release to his people,
   decreed his covenant forever;
   holy and fearsome is his name.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
   prudent are all who practice it.
His praise endures forever.

Psalm 115:1–2, 3–4, 9–14, 15–16, 17–18

Not to us, O LORD, not to us
   but to your name give glory
because of your kindness, because of your truth.
Why should the pagans say,
   “Where is there God?”

Our God is in heaven;
   whatever he wills, he does.
Their idols are silver and gold,
   the handiwork of men.
The house of Israel trusts in the LORD, who is their help and shield.
The house of Aaron trusts in the LORD, who is their help and shield.
Those who fear the LORD trust in the LORD, who is their help and shield.
The LORD remembers us and will bless us, will bless the house of Israel, will bless the house of Aaron, Will bless those who fear the LORD, small and great alike.
May the LORD increase your number, you and your descendants.

May you be blessed by the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
Heaven is the heaven of the LORD, but the earth he has given to the children of men.

It is not the dead who praise the LORD, nor those who go down into silence; But we bless the LORD, both now and forever.

Psalm 116:12–13, 15–16bc, 17–18
How shall I make a return to the LORD for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the LORD.

Precious in the eyes of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones, I am your servant, the son of your handmaid; you have loosed my bonds.

To you will I offer sacrifice of thanksgiving, and I will call upon the name of the LORD. My vows to the LORD I will pay in the presence of all his people.
Psalm 118:1–4, 5, 19–25, 28–29
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
his mercy endures forever.
Let Israel say:
his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Aaron say,
his mercy endures forever.
Let those who fear the LORD say,
his mercy endures forever.

In danger I called on the LORD;
the LORD answered me and set me free.

Open the gates of righteousness;
I will enter and thank the LORD.
This is the LORD’s own gate,
through it the righteous enter.
I thank you for you answered me;
you have been my savior.
The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.
By the LORD has this been done;
it is wonderful in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice in it and be glad.
LORD, grant salvation!
LORD, grant good fortune!

You are my God, I give you thanks;
my God, I offer you praise.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
his mercy endures forever.
Blessed are they whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD  
Blessed are they who observe his decrees,  
who seek him with all their heart.  
You have commanded that your precepts  
be diligently kept.  
Oh, that I might be firm in the ways  
of keeping your statutes!  
Be good to your servant, that I may live  
and keep your words.  
Open my eyes, that I may consider  
the wonders of your law.  
Instruct me, O LORD, in the way of your statutes,  
that I may exactly observe them.  
Give me discernment, that I may observe your law  
and keep it with all my heart.  

I have said, O LORD, that my part  
is to keep your words.  
The law of your mouth is to me more precious  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.  
Let your kindness comfort me  
according to your promise to your servants.  
Let your compassion come to me that I may live,  
for your law is my delight.  
For I love your commands  
more than gold, however fine.  
For in all your precepts I go forward;  
every false way I hate.  
Wonderful are your decrees;  
therefore I observe them.  
The revelation of your words sheds light,  
giving understanding to the simple.
Psalm 122:1–2, 3–4, 4–5, 6–7, 8–9

I rejoiced because they said to me,
   “We will go up to the house of the LORD,”
And now we have set foot
   within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, built as a city
   with compact unity.
To it the tribes go up,
   the tribes of the LORD.

According to the decree for Israel,
   to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
In it are set up judgment seats,
   seats for the house of David.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!
   May those who love you prosper!
May peace be within your walls,
   prosperity in your buildings.

Because of my relatives and friends
   I will say, “Peace be within you!”
Because of the house of the LORD, our God,
   I will pray for your good.

Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5

Happy are you who fear the LORD,
   who walks in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
   happy shall you be, and favored.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
   in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants
   around your table.
Behold, thus is the man blessed
who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5b and 7a, 7bc
Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
    LORD, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication.

If you, O LORD, mark our iniquities,
    LORD, who can stand?
But with you is forgiveness,
    that you may be revered.

I trust in the LORD;
    my soul trusts in his word.
My soul waits for the LORD
    more than sentinels wait for the dawn.
Let Israel wait for the LORD.

For with the LORD is kindness,
    and with him is plenteous redemption.

Psalm 131:1, 2, 3
O LORD, my heart is not proud,
    nor are my eyes haughty;
I busy not myself with great things,
    nor with things too sublime for me.

Nay rather, I have stilled and quieted
    my soul like a weaned child.
Like a weaned child on its mother’s lap,
    [so is my soul within me.]

O Israel, hope in the LORD,
    both now and forever.
Psalm 136:1–3, 4–6, 7–9
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
   for his mercy endures forever;
Give thanks to the God of gods,
   for his mercy endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords,
   for his mercy endures forever;
Who alone does great wonders,
   for his mercy endures forever;
Who made the heavens in wisdom,
   for his mercy endures forever;
Who spread out the earth upon the waters,
   for his mercy endures forever.
Who made the great lights,
   for his mercy endures forever,
The sun to rule in the day,
   for his mercy endures forever,
The moon and stars to rule over the night,
   for his mercy endures forever.

Psalm 138:1–2ab, 2cde–3, 7c–8
I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
   for you have heard the words of my mouth;
   in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple
   and give thanks to your name.
Because of your kindness and your truth;
   for you have made great above all things
   your name and your promise.
When I called, you answered me;
   you built up strength within me.
Your right hand saves me.
The LORD will complete what he has done for me;
   your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
   forsake not the work of your hands.
Psalm 139:1–3, 4–6
O LORD you have probed me and 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.

Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O LORD, you know the whole of it.
Behind me and before, you hem me in
and rest your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
too lofty for me to attain.

Psalm 145:1–2, 8–9, 10–11, 13b–14
I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name for ever and ever.
Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name for ever and ever.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his works.
The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.
Psalm 148:1–2, 3–10 11–12, 13, 14

_Hallelujah!_

Praise the **LORD** from the heavens,
   give praise in the heights.
Praise him, all you angels;
   give praise, all you hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon;
   give praise, all shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens,
   you waters above the heavens.
Let them all praise the **LORD**’s name;
   for the **LORD** commanded and they were created,
Assigned them duties forever,
   gave them tasks that will never change.

Praise the **LORD** from the earth,
   you sea monsters and all deep waters;
You lightening and hail, snow and clouds,
   storm winds that fulfills his command;
You mountains and all hills,
   fruit trees and all cedars;
You animals wild and tame,
   you creatures that crawl and fly;

You kings of the earth and all peoples,
   princes and all who govern on earth;
Young men and women too,
   old and young alike.

Let them all praise the **LORD**’s name,
   for his name alone is exalted,
majestic above earth and heaven.

The **LORD** has lifted high the horn of his people,
   to the glory of all the faithful,
   of Israel, the people near to their God.
_Hallelujah!_
The Canticle of Mary (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.
Canticle of Simeon (Luke 2:29–32)
“Now, Master, you may let your servant go
   in peace, according to your word,
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
   which you prepared in sight of all the peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
   and glory for your people Israel.”

Lauda Sion (Short Form)
Laud, O Zion, your salvation,
   Laud with hymns of exultation,
   Christ, your king and shepherd true . . .

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.
Veni Sancte Spiritus
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
And from your celestial home
   Shed a ray of light divine!
Come, Father of the poor!
Come, source of all our store!
   Come, within our bosoms shine.

You, of comforters the best;
You, the soul’s most welcome guest;
   Sweet refreshment here below;

In our labor, rest most sweet;
Grateful coolness in the heat;
   Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed Light divine,
Shine within these hearts of yours,
   And our inmost being fill!

Where you are not, we have naught,
Nothing good in deed or thought,
   Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew;
On our dryness pour your dew;
   Wash the stains of guilt away:

Bend the stubborn heart and will;
Melt the frozen, warm the chill;
   Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore
And confess you, evermore
   In your sevenfold gift descend;
Give them virtue’s sure reward;
Give them your salvation, Lord;
   Give them joys that never end. Amen.
   Alleluia.
**Daily Prayer 2020** is your resource for fostering a practice of prayer. Excellent for personal devotion or leading small groups, this book is written annually to reflect the liturgical year.

Drawing on the long tradition of Christian prayer, a simple order of prayer is provided for each day of the liturgical year, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019, and extending through December 31, 2020. The order of prayer is dated and includes a Scripture passage, normally from the daily Mass, a reflection, intercessions, the Lord’s Prayer, and a closing prayer. This easy-to-use format presents a way to begin or end parish meetings and formation sessions with prayer rooted in the liturgical year.

*Daily Prayer* will be with me this year and for many years to come. Its interpretation of the day’s reading provides a perspective that never would have occurred to me. *Daily Prayer* helps me to pray better, providing more meaningful words and understanding to my prayer.

—David J. Nahs, St. Jude Catholic Church  
Peoria, Illinois

I have used *Daily Prayer* for many years. It sets a positive tone to my day. *Daily Prayer* is perfect for busy people who want to spend a few quiet moments with God before starting their day.

—Leslie Palmer, Sacred Heart Church  
Castleton-on-Hudson, New York