

Sunday, February 25, 2024

- **Readings**

- Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18 *The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith.*
- Psalm 116 *I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.*
- Romans 8:31b-35, 37++ *God did not withhold his own Son.*
- Mark 9:2-10 *This is my Son, the beloved; listen to Him.*



- **Reflection**

Do you see the glory of God in your life? Oftentimes this is a real struggle. We can easily become aware of all the problems we face and can focus in on them. As a result, it is easy to miss seeing the glory of God in our lives. Do you see God's glory in your life?

The feast we celebrate today is a commemoration of the fact that Jesus literally revealed His glory to three of the Apostles. He took them up a high mountain and was transfigured before them. He became dazzling white and radiant with glory. This was an important image for them to have in their minds in preparation for the very real image of the suffering and death Jesus was about to undergo. One lesson we should take from this feast is the fact that the glory of Jesus was not lost on the Cross. His suffering and pain was made manifest at that time, but it doesn't change the fact that His glory was just as real while He suffered on the Cross.

The same is true in our lives. We are blessed beyond measure and God desires to transform our souls into glorious beacons of light and grace. When He does this, we must strive to constantly see it. When we suffer or face some Cross, we must never take our eyes off the glorious things He has done in our souls.

Reflect, today, upon the beautiful and profound transformation that God has done and continues to desire to do in your soul. Know that He wants you to fix your eyes upon this glory and forever remain grateful for it, especially as you endure any cross you are given. <https://catholic-daily-reflections.com>

- **Prayer**

Lord, may I see Your glory and the glory that You have bestowed upon my own soul. May my eyes forever remain fixed on that grace. May I see You and Your glory especially in difficult times. Jesus, I trust in You, AMEN.

Monday, February 26, 2024

- **Readings of the day**

- Daniel 9:3, 4b-10 *We have sinned and done wrong.*
- Psalm 79 *Lord, do not deal with us as our sins deserve.*
- Luke 6:36-38 *Forgive, and you will be forgiven.*

Mercy

- **Reflection**

Mercy is who God is. It is love's other name. Mercy is forgiveness. God is more interested in our future than in our past. He takes past sins seriously but never as the last word. God wants each of us to become the best person He wills us to be and this requires conversion — a change of heart. Genuine mercy believes God's Grace has the power to transform us. God does not owe us forgiveness. Nor does God's mercy license us to continue to sin — it demands a response to go and from now on sin no more (John 8:11). God's mercy motivates us to do better.

God's forgiveness is an easy thing to obtain. One needs only to ask. God forgives — he opens his loving arms and grants mercy. He gives love away. <https://sosf.org>

Prayer

Almighty God, You love us, despite the sins we commit, but You also command us to admit our failures and repent. May we take our sins seriously so that we may not take Your mercy for granted. Through Christ our Lord, AMEN

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

• **Readings of the day**

- Isaiah 1:10, 16-20, 27-28, 31 *Learn to do good; seek justice.*
- Psalm 50 *To the upright I will show the saving power of God.*
- Matthew 23:1-12 *The scribes and Pharisees do not practice what they teach.*



• **Reflection**

Humility is a greatly under-emphasized quality among humans. We don't know what it means. We don't know how to appreciate it. We don't know how to do it. And we're not all that sure we want to have it. Culturally, we're much more drawn to the energetic, dynamic, charismatic, crowd-drawing leader. That's who gets the headlines and the attention. But if we listen closely and watch carefully, we can see in Jesus someone who is humble, but strong; humble, but charismatic; humble, but crowd drawing; humble, but dynamic.

You see, the same Lord who stilled the storm and spoke to the crowds is the Lord who washed feet and died on a cross and held babies in his arms when it wasn't politically correct.

So maybe we need to rethink humility and live it like Jesus did. Come to think of it, that's exactly what we need to do; no maybe about it. Let's be like Jesus and the humility comes along with the character!

<https://www.heartlight.org/wjd/matthew/1028-wjd.html>

• **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, You said, "O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what He requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." Today may we choose to walk humbly with You. We choose to live by Your Holy Spirit and to follow Your lead. Help us to hear You clearly. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

• **Readings of the day**

- Jeremiah 18:18-20 *Come, let us bring charges against him.*
- Psalm 31 *Save me, O Lord, in your steadfast love.*
- Matthew 20:17-28 *The Son of Man will be condemned to death.*



• **Reflection**

On three different occasions the Gospels record that Jesus predicted He would endure great suffering through betrayal, rejection, and the punishment of a cruel death. The Jews resorted to stoning and the Romans to crucifixion- the most painful and humiliation death they could devise for criminals they wanted to eliminate. No wonder the apostles were greatly distressed at such a prediction! If Jesus their Master were put to death, then they would likely receive the same treatment by their enemies. Jesus called himself the "Son of Man" because this was a common Jewish title for the Messiah. Why must the Messiah be rejected and killed? Did not God promise that His Anointed One would deliver His people from their oppression and establish a Kingdom of peace and justice? The prophet Isaiah had foretold that it was God's will that the "Suffering Servant" make atonement for sins through His suffering and death. Jesus paid the price for our redemption with His Blood. Slavery to sin is to want the wrong things and to be in bondage to destructive desires. The ransom Jesus paid sets us free from the worst tyranny possible—the tyranny of sin and the fear of death. Jesus' victory did not end with death but triumphed over the tomb. Jesus defeated the powers of death through His Resurrection. Do you want the greatest freedom possible, the freedom to live as God truly meant us to live as his sons and daughters? <https://dailyscripture.servantsoftheword.org>

• **Prayer**

Lord Jesus, Your death brought life and freedom. May I always walk in that freedom and be guided by Your love and truth that I may be generous towards all and give each their due. We ask this through Christ our Lord, AMEN.

Thursday, February 29, 2024

- **Readings of the day**

- Jeremiah 17:5-10 *Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals blessed are those who trust in the Lord.*
- Psalm 1 *Happy are they who hope in the Lord*
- Luke 16:19-31 *You received your good things, and Lazarus evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.*

- **Reflection**

It is interesting to note that Lazarus is the only name given to anyone in Jesus' parables; it means El-azar, 'God has helped.' This is a reminder to us that no poor person is invisible to God. Each needy person that we pass on the street is known to God by name and loved by God. When is the last time that, as I dropped a coin in a hat, I asked the person his or her name?

It is not that the rich man did not believe. He found himself in torment because of the way he treated others. As St James writes in the New Testament, 'What good is it, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also, faith by itself if it does not have works, is dead.'
Sacredspace.ie

- **Prayer**

Father of the poor, in the fullness of Your reign everyone has enough, and no one suffers. Show us what we must do to live within Your Kingdom so that we might ultimately live with You forever. Through Christ our Lord, AMEN.



Friday, March 1, 2024

- **Readings of the day**
 - Genesis 37:3-4, 12-13a , 17b-28 *Here comes this dreamer, let us kill him.*
 - Psalm 105 *Remember the marvels the Lord has done.*
 - Matthew 21:33-43, 45-46 *The heir; come, let us kill him.*



- **Reflection**

Joseph was his father's favourite and his brothers knew it. Joseph also reported everything they did to their father, and because he told Jacob all the bad things they did, they held a grudge against him. The thing is, though, that if they had not been doing anything bad, then Joseph would only have had good things to report. They obviously perceived Joseph as a tattletale, doing everything their father asked and were jealous.

Joseph seems to have taken great pride in telling his brothers all about his dreams. He has the gift of being able to interpret dreams from God, but here, he uses it to score against his brothers, to make himself look good. It is not until he has suffered imprisonment and false accusation that he finally learned to trust in God, to give Him the glory. It took suffering for God to be able to use Joseph and it all started with Joseph's brothers selling him into slavery. God then turned this wicked act into something that saved an entire nation.

Sometimes, when we are going through trials, when there is illness, death, financial problems, marital problems, job difficulties, trouble at school, it seems like God is far away, that He doesn't care and is leaving us to fend for ourselves. I am sure there were times when Joseph thought about that as he was taken away into slavery and captivity. The things we have been through may make us more sympathetic people, kinder, more accepting, even if we want those things to magically disappear. God uses the troubles we go through to refine us, to make us more like Christ and to turn us into the people he has always designed us to be. <http://rreflectionsonlife.blogspot.com>

- **Prayer**

Heavenly Father reveal to us the ways we hurt those closest to us. Help us to forgive those we love. Lead us to mutual understanding and strengthen the bonds of familial and spiritual love. Through Christ, our Lord, AMEN.

Saturday, March 2, 2024

- **Readings of the day**
 - Micah 7:14-15, 18-20 *God will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.*
 - Psalm 103 *The Lord is kind and merciful.*
 - Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 *This brother of yours was dead and has come to life.*



- **Reflection**

No one has God's extraordinary power to forgive. God, in an outpouring of love, shares this great gift of forgiving with us. Forgiveness frees us from the burden of anger and hurt; it empowers us to heal and move forward. Although forgiveness brings healing and consolation, it is a gift we often have to ask for every day. Daily Prayer, Liturgy Training Publications.

- **Prayer**

Loving and forgiving God, Your gift of forgiveness helps us overcome division, and restore the bonds of fellowship. May we never cease to ask You for this gift. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. AMEN