

**SUNDAY, August 29, 2021**  
**Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Prayer for the Morning**

Jesus Christ is the Word of life: let us give thanks and praise!

Glory to the Father... Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn

Meter: LM

Your love, O Lord, our sinful race  
Has not returned, but falsified;  
Author of mercy, turn your face  
And grant repentance for our pride.  
Remember, Lord, though frail we be,  
In your own image were we made;  
Help us, lest in anxiety,  
We cause your Name to be betrayed.  
Therefore, we pray you, Lord, forgive;  
So when our wand'ring here shall cease,  
We may with you for ever live,  
In love and unity and peace.

Psalm

1

*You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition. (Mk 7:8)*

*The pattern began in Eden. Our shortsighted pride opens us to the ready temptation to substitute our own preferences for God's commandments, either because we find God's law too strict or because we find it too compassionate. We fail to understand that God has mapped out for us the way to the life for which we yearn.*

Happy indeed is the man  
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;  
nor lingers in the way of sinners  
nor sits in the company of scorners,  
but whose delight is the law of the Lord  
and who ponders his law day and night.  
He is like a tree that is planted  
beside the flowing waters,  
that yields its fruit in due season  
and whose leaves shall never fade;  
and all that he does shall prosper.  
Not so are the wicked, not so!  
For they like winnowed chaff  
shall be driven away by the wind.  
When the wicked are judged they shall not stand,  
nor find room among those who are just;  
for the Lord guards the way of the just  
but the way of the wicked leads to doom.

Glory to the Father....

Word of God

Deuteronomy 4:40

You must keep his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you today, that you and your children after you may prosper, and that you may have long life on the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you forever.

Every command that I enjoin on you, you shall be careful to observe, neither adding to it nor subtracting from it. (Dt 13:1)

Canticle of Zechariah

*Love the Lord, your God, heeding his voice, and holding fast to him. For that will mean life for you. (cf. Dt 30:20)*

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

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

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

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

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

Glory to the Father...

Intercessions

In our weakness, we pray with confidence to the God who gives us strength:

**R/**Guard us in the way of your commandments.

When we are tempted to follow our own will rather than yours: **R/**

When we are blinded by the attraction of our own preferences: **R/**

When we learn or teach ways other than those you have marked out for us: **R/ Personal intentions**

**Our Father...**

God of truth, you gave us your law made flesh in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Open our eyes and our hearts to see, understand, and follow in the path in which he will lead us today, that we may arrive at last in our heavenly homeland, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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**Reading 1**                      **Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8**

Moses said to the people: "Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, 'This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.' For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?"

**Reading 2**                      **James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27**

Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.

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

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

**Gospel**                              **Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23**

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds. So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition."

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.

"From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

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**Men of St. Joseph Prayer**

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

*Prayer for the Morning text used with permission of Magnificat*