

SUNDAY, July 18, 2021
Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Prayer for the Morning

Christ is the Word of life: come, let us adore him!

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

Hymn **Meter: SM**

O Christ, you walked the road
Our wandering feet must go.
You faced with us temptation's power
And fought our ancient foe.
No bread of earth alone
Can fill our hungering hearts.
Lord, help us seek your living Word,
The food your grace imparts.
No blinding sign we ask,
No wonder from above.
Lord, help us place our trust alone
In your unswerving love.

Psalm **107: 1-9**

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. (Mk 6:34)

We wander in ignorance, seeking nourishment for our spirits where there is none to be had, until the Good Shepherd takes us under his compassionate care and feeds us on the Word of life.

“O give thanks to the Lord for he is good;
for his love endures for ever.”

Let them say this, the Lord's redeemed,
whom he redeemed from the hand of the foe
and gathered from far-off lands,
from east and west, north and south.
Some wandered in the desert, in the wilderness,
finding no way to a city they could dwell in.
Hungry they were and thirsty;
their soul was fainting within them.
Then they cried to the Lord in their need
and he rescued them from their distress
and he led them along the right way,

to reach a city they could dwell in.
Let them thank the Lord for his love,
for the wonders he does for men.
For he satisfies the thirsty soul;
he fills the hungry with good things.

Glory to the Father

Word of God **Ezekiel 34:11-12**

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will look after and tend my sheep. As a shepherd tends his flock when he finds himself among his scattered sheep, so will I tend my sheep. I will rescue them from every place where they were scattered when it was cloudy and dark.

I will rescue my people from the land of the rising sun, and from the land of the setting sun.
(Zec 8:7)

Canticle of Zechariah

I will appoint over you shepherds after my own heart, / who will shepherd you wisely and prudently. (Jer 3:15)

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

With confidence, let us pray:

R/Lead your people home!

For those who wander in the deserts of disbelief and despair: **R/**

For those who browse for food in the pastures of untruth: **R/**

For those who do not know that they are lost: **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

Shepherd of Israel, you look with compassion upon your people as we hunger and thirst for true life. Send us wise and faithful pastors who will feed us on your Word, guide us in your ways, and bring us safely into your fold, that we may praise and glorify your name, who live and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Reading 1 Jeremiah 23:1-6

Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds. I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the Lord.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: "The Lord, our justice."

Reading 2 Ephesians 2:13-18

Brothers and sisters: In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it. He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

Gospel Mark 6:30-34

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while." People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place. People saw them leaving and many came to know about it. They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

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!

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