

Sunday, June 18, 2023
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer for the Morning

The Lord is our Shepherd: come, let us give thanks!
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: LM

The Shepherd sends his servants out
With lamps that burn with Spirit flame
To seek the lost he died to save
And light their way: for this he came.
Christ's shepherds bear the lamp of faith
To those who hide in doubt and fear,
To those who will not ask or seek,
To those who find no meaning here.
Christ's shepherds bear the lamp of love
To those who dwell in dark of death,
The poor, the sick, the blind, the lame,
The starved who struggle to draw breath.
The Shepherd sends his servants out
As years roll on toward that bright day
When all the lost, now gathered in,
Shall see his Face, who was their Way.

Psalm

23

Go [...] to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." (cf. Mt 10:6-7)

Like a good shepherd protecting his flock from wolves, Jesus drives away all that blocks the way to God's kingdom and heals all that turns us aside from God's love for us.

**The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort.
You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.**

**My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing.
Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.**

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Ezekiel 34:11-13

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 lead them out from among the peoples and gather them from the foreign lands; I will bring them back to their own country and pasture them upon the mountains of Israel [in the land's ravines and all its inhabited places].

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish. No one can take them out of my hand.

(Jn 10:28)

Canticle of Zechariah

The lost I will seek out, the strayed I will bring back, the injured I will bind up, the sick I will heal [...] shepherding them rightly. (cf. Ez 34:16)

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

As disciples, we are sent to proclaim the good news of our Shepherd's kingdom by our lives and our love for God and neighbor. Let us pray to him:

R/ Guide and guard your people, Lord!

For the Church's pastors and missionaries:

– keep them faithful to the ministry you have entrusted to them: **R/**

For those who mistrust the Church:

– heal their wounds and restore them to the life of your flock: **R/**

For those who feel lost and afraid:

– protect them from harm: **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

God our Shepherd, your love for us is abiding, creative, protective, and strengthening. Guide us, and guard us from all that would tear us away from you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Reading 1

Exodus 19:2-6a

In those days, the Israelites came to the desert of Sinai and pitched camp. While Israel was encamped here in front of the mountain, Moses went up the mountain to God. Then the Lord called to him and said, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself. Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation."

Reading 2

Romans 5:6-11

Brothers and sisters: Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will

we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Gospel

Matthew 9:36-10:8

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness. The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

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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