

**SUNDAY, October 31, 2021**  
**Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Prayer for the Morning**

*How many are the wonders God has worked for us!  
Let us give thanks and praise!*

**Glory to the Father ... Alleluia!**

**Hymn**

**Meter: CM**

nce, only once, and once for all,  
His precious life he gave;  
Before the Cross our spirits fall,  
And own it strong to save.  
For, as the priest of Aaron's line  
Within the holiest stood,  
And sprinkled all the mercy-shrine  
With sacrificial blood;  
So he, who once atonement wrought,  
Our priest of endless power,  
Presents himself for those he bought  
In that dark noontide hour.  
And so we show thy death, O Lord,  
Till thou again appear,  
And feel, when we approach thy board,  
We have an altar here.

**Canticle** cf. Daniel 3:26-27, 29, 34, 39-41

*To love God with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices. (cf. Mk 12:33)*

*The one true sacrifice that wins our salvation is the absolute self-offering in love of Jesus Christ on the cross. The fruit of that sacrifice in us is holiness of love. To be holy is to participate in, reflect, and offer to all the unimaginable love that Christ has shown for the Father and for us. Our self-offering in love to the God we worship and the neighbor we serve is our true sacrifice.*

**Blessed are you, and praiseworthy,  
O Lord, the God of our fathers, and glorious forever  
is your name. For you are just in all you have done;  
all your deeds are faultless, all your ways right,  
and all your judgments proper. For we have sinned  
and transgressed by departing from you, and we  
have done every kind of evil. For your name's  
sake, do not deliver us up forever, or make void  
your covenant. But with contrite heart and humble  
spirit let us be received;**

as though it were holocausts of rams and bullocks,  
or thousands of fat lambs, let our sacrifice be in  
your presence today as we follow you  
unreservedly; for those who trust in you cannot be  
put to shame. And now we follow you with our  
whole heart, we fear you and we pray to you.

**Glory to the Father....**

**Word of God**

**Romans 12:1-2**

I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (1 Pt 2:5)

**Canticle of Zechariah**

*For it is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than holocausts. (Hos 6:6)*

**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

Let us offer to God the sweet-smelling incense of prayer, as we say:

**R/Hear us, O Lord!**

For those who have been sealed in upon themselves by ill treatment, loss, and pain: free them for love, we pray: **R/**

For those who find themselves unable to offer you worship: free them to rejoin the Sunday assembly of your people, we pray: **R/**

For those who have given their lives freely in service of others: bring them to the everlasting joy of your kingdom, we pray: **R/**

### **Personal intentions**

#### **Our Father....**

*God and giver of all good gifts, we give you thanks for the saving love you have shown us in the self-gift of Jesus Christ on the cross which we celebrate with joy on this holy day. Through our Sunday worship, grant us the grace to grow in this love, that we may serve more faithfully throughout the coming week, through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

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#### **Reading 1**

#### **Deuteronomy 6:2-6**

Moses spoke to the people, saying: "Fear the Lord, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the Lord, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey.

"Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone! Therefore, you shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today."

#### **Reading 2**

#### **Hebrews 7:23-28**

Brothers and sisters: The levitical priests were many because they were prevented by death from remaining in office, but Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. Therefore, he is always able to save those who

approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them.

It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son, who has been made perfect forever.

#### **Gospel**

#### **Mark 12:28b-34**

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he'. And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

#### **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*