

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...

