

SUNDAY, September 19, 2021
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Prayer for the Morning

*In Jesus Christ is the gift of life:
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: SM**

Let us join in the feast:
The triumph of Christ's cross.
The Greatest has become the Least,
Assessing gain as loss.
God grant I never boast
In glories that will end,
If Christ, who sacrificed the most
Accounted me a friend.
What greater love than this:
The Lord lay down his life.
The Master of the realms of bliss
Bore pain and scorn and strife.
He conquered Satan's pride
By deep humility.
Within his saving wounds I hide
And gain his grace for me.

Psalm **31:5-6, 12, 14-16, 18b-19, 24**

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." (Mk 9:35)

It would take the disciples a long time to understand that Jesus' fundamental service was to choose the humiliation of his Passion and shameful Death in order to deliver us to life. Jesus' choice challenges our priorities, as do James' words in today's second reading. In the Eucharist, let us empty ourselves of pride, ambition, and all self-seeking, that we may be filled with the life Christ won for us through the cross.

Release me from the snares they have hidden
for you are my refuge, Lord.
Into your hands I commend my spirit.
It is you who will redeem me, Lord.
In the face of all my foes
I am a reproach,
an object of scorn to my neighbors
and of fear to my friends.
I have heard the slander of the crowd,

fear is all around me,
as they plot together against me,
as they plan to take my life.
But as for me, I trust in you, Lord,
I say: "You are my God.
My life is in your hands, deliver me
from the hands of those who hate me.
Let them be silenced in the grave,
let lying lips be dumb,
that speak haughtily against the just
with pride and contempt."
Love the Lord, all you saints.
He guards his faithful
but the Lord will repay to the full
those who act with pride.

Glory to the Father....

Word of God **Ephesians 4:1-3**

I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace.

For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. (Jas 3:16)

Canticle of Zechariah

Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. (Mt 20:27)

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 pray for the gift of true humility:

R/Humble our hearts, O Lord!

Where arrogance and selfishness divide families, communities, and nations: **R/**

Where ambition hinders loving service: **R/**

Where fear of disapproval keeps us from the works of mercy: **R/**

Personal intentions

Our Father....

*O God of truth, deliver us from all self-seeking, that we may seek above all else the fulfillment of your will in the coming of your reign of peace and justice among us, through the cross of Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, 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 **Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

The wicked say:/ Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us;/ he sets himself against our doings,/ reproaches us for transgressions of the law/ and charges us with violations of our training./ Let us see whether his words be true;/ let us find out what will happen to him./ For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him/ and deliver him from the hand of his foes./ With revilement and torture let us put the just one to the test/ that we may have proof of his gentleness/ and try his patience./ Let us condemn him to a shameful death;/ for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

Reading 2 **James 3:16-4:3**

Beloved: Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every foul practice. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure, then peaceable, gentle, compliant, full of mercy and good fruits, without inconstancy or insincerity. And

the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace for those who cultivate peace.

Where do the wars and where do the conflicts among you come from? Is it not from your passions that make war within your members? You covet but do not possess. You kill and envy but you cannot obtain; you fight and wage war. You do not possess because you do not ask. You ask but do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

Gospel **Mark 9:30-37**

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them, "The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise." But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest. Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, "Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."

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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