

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, protector of those who hope in you,
without whom nothing has firm foundation,
nothing is holy,
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us
and grant that, with you as our ruler and
guide,
we may use the good things that pass
in such a way as to hold fast even now
to those that ever endure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The Lord said, "How great an outcry there is against Sodom and Gomorrah! How grievous is their sin! I propose to go down and see whether or not they have done all that is alleged in the outcry against them that has come up to me. I am determined to know."

The men left there and went to Sodom while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Approaching him he said, "Are you really going to destroy the just man with the sinner? Perhaps there are fifty just men in the town. Will you really overwhelm them, will you not spare the place for the fifty just men in it? Do not think of doing such a thing: to kill the just man with the sinner, treating just and sinner alike! Do not think of it! Will the judge of the whole earth not administer justice?" The Lord replied, "If at Sodom I find fifty just men in the town, I will spare the whole place because of them."

Abraham replied, "I am bold indeed to speak like this to my Lord, I who am dust and ashes. But perhaps the fifty just men lack five: will you destroy the whole city for five?" "No," he replied, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five just men there." Again Abraham said to him, "Perhaps there will only be forty there." "I will not do it" he replied "for the sake of the forty."

Abraham said, "I trust my Lord will not be angry, but give me leave to speak: perhaps there will only be thirty there." "I will not do it" he replied "if I find thirty there." He said, "I am bold indeed to speak like this, but perhaps there will only be twenty there." "I will not destroy it" he replied "for the sake of the twenty." He said, "I trust my Lord will not

be angry if I speak once more: perhaps there will only be ten." "I will not destroy it" he replied "for the sake of the ten."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 137

Response:

On the day I called,
you answered me, O Lord.

1. I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
Before the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. (R.)
2. I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.
On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul. (R.)
3. The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.
Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes. (R.)
4. You stretch out your hand and save me,
your hand will do all things for me.
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,
discard not the work of your hands. (R.)

SECOND READING Colossians 2:12-14

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

You have been buried with Christ, when you were baptised; and by baptism, too, you have been raised up with him through your belief in the power of God who raised him from the dead. You were dead, because you were sinners and had not been circumcised: he has brought you to life with him, he has forgiven us all our sins.

He has overridden the Law, and cancelled every record of the debt that we had to pay; he has done away with it by nailing it to the cross.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us;

to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 11:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "Say this when you pray:

'Father, may your name be held holy,
your kingdom come;
give us each day our daily bread,
and forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.
And do not put us to the test.'

He also said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, 'My friend, lend me three loaves because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him'; and the man answers

from inside the house, 'Do not bother me.

The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you,' I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it to him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

"So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament,
the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son;
grant, we pray, that this gift,
which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling,
may profit us for salvation.
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



SAY

**“Whenever you stand praying, forgive if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”
(Mark’s Gospel)**

DO

If you’re a little out of practice in your prayer life, how about taking as little as 10 minutes a day to begin a conversation with God. If you are short on words, read from today’s Gospel from Luke.

LEARN

“For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.”

(St Therese of Lisieux)



JESUS’ TEACHING ON PRAYER (LK 11:1-13)

Depiction of Jesus teaching, in St Anthony’s Church, Leuven (19th century)

Jesus is the best example of how we should pray and in today’s Gospel, he becomes a teacher of prayer. The disciples request his help and Jesus responds by giving them words they can use when they want to communicate with God.

You will notice that in Luke’s Gospel, a much shorter form of the Our Father is used because the church uses the version in Matthew’s Gospel as it is longer. However the differences between the two versions of the prayer are few. Jesus gives the disciples a form of prayer that acknowledges God as Father, his will be done on earth as it is in heaven and the final request to deliver us from evil.

The Lord’s Prayer is then followed by a parable of a man requesting bread from his neighbour. It’s late at night and the family in the house are already in bed. It’s clear that the man of the house isn’t keen to answer the door at such a late hour. And yet the visitor to the house persists and continues to knock. His persistence eventually pays off because he receives the food, but we can imagine the already sleeping family startled and awakened by the drama at the door. The learning the disciples can take from this short parable is that asking and searching and persisting is necessary in prayer. Bang on the door until God hears you! ■

REFLECT

What is prayer and why isn’t it working? Two common questions that I’ve been asked over the course of my ministry. I can never claim to be an expert on prayer but there are certain rules of thumb from today’s Gospel that might help those of us who struggle to pray.

Prayer is at the heart of the Christian life and expresses a desire within us to communicate with God. But there is little doubt that in order to pray, we need to pray with faith. Before Jesus heals someone in the Gospels, he often asks, “Do you believe I can do this for you?”

And if the person expresses strong faith, the miracle happens or the prayer is answered. Having faith is like opening a window to God. Saying ‘Our Father’ is a sign of our deep faith in him. We have heard the call from Jesus that we should pray like children – asking in the belief that we will receive. It seems rather simple or trivial but opening our full heart to God in prayer is the first lesson of Jesus to the disciples today.

The Lord’s Prayer then moves into the importance of forgiveness in prayer. How difficult it can be to open ourselves to God when we’re holding a grudge

against a family member, neighbour or work colleague. The desire may exist to communicate with God but the channel of communication is blocked due to our grievance against someone. Our prayers won’t be effective until we forgive like God the Father forgives.

And finally, today’s parable tells us to persist in our prayer. In some Gospel translations, the word ‘audacity’ is used. To have the audacity/persistence to pray again, to pray more, to knock and to ask. I think this is perhaps my most common experience of prayer. ■