



Hosanna



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“A man without prayer is like a tree without roots.” – Pope Pius XII

INTRODUCTION

“Prayer is not asking. It is longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one’s weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart,” says Mahatma Gandhi. Jesus is the pattern for all of us for prayer. He withdrew to mountains, lonely places to pray so that he could accomplish the mission of the Father. Prayer took much of his strength and time during his life on earth. Let us enter into a deep relationship with the Triune God through this celebration of the Eucharist.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people. (Ps 67:6-7, 36)

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.

FIRST READING

We can pray for others and God will hear and answer our prayers. Abraham has left us wonderful example of love of neighbour. He pleads for the people. Let us imitate Abraham’s true, unselfish love of neighbour as we listen to this reading.

A reading from the Book of Genesis 18:20-32

The Lord said, “Because the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is great and their sin is very grave, I will go down to see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry which has come to me; and if not, I will know.” So the men turned from there, and went towards Sodom; but Abraham still stood before the Lord. Then Abraham drew near, and said, “Wilt thou indeed destroy the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; wilt thou then destroy the place and not spare it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from thee to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from thee! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?” And the Lord said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will spare the whole place for their sake.” Abraham answered, “Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous

are lacking? Wilt thou destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, and said, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Behold, I have taken upon myself to speak to the Lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak again but this once. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Responsorial Psalm (138)

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

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING

How can we ever thank God for all he has done for us! Eternity itself will not be long enough for us to sing him our full hymn of gratitude. You are raised in Christ through baptism in faith, says Paul to the Colossians.

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Colossians 2:12-14

You were buried with Christ in baptism, in which you were also raised with him, through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, having cancelled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross.

ALLELUIA (Jn 14:6)

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St Luke 11:1-13

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he ceased, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." And he said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us; and lead us not into temptation.' And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give

you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For every one who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

HOMILY

NICENE CREED

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Celebrant: Man is a bundle of needs; he needs to turn to God at every step; Prayer is a way to do so. We pray together with Christ since He is our bother, we pray through Christ, since he is our priest, and we pray to Christ, since He is our God:

Response: Lord, teach us to pray.

1. Lord Jesus, the Holy One of Israel, we pray for the Holy Catholic Church, Pope Francis, Archbishop Bernard Moras, Clergy and all the faithful. We have seen your goodness, your power, your love. We have noted how many times you left us to go apart for a while to pray. Teach us Jesus to pray as you prayed to speak to your Father and our Father. Teach us to reach out as you reached out - to touch as you touched - to talk as you talked, we pray to the Lord:

2. For this Christian community, that our prayer together may lead us to feel ever more deeply that we are all God's children, brothers and sisters of one another. May we all experience your presence and grow in

unity and communion in our service to one another. We pray to the Lord:

3. Prayer is a power. It transforms and transfigures the one who responds to it generously in true faith and ardent desire. We pray, Father most holy, that we may always remain faithful to your Word and experience this power in our day today life and live our Christian life joyfully as citizens of God's kingdom. we pray to the Lord:

4. We come to you as your children this morning asking for the various needs of our families. Though you know them yet we feel to bring it to you in trust and hope as we face trials and tribulations more often than necessary. Be our source of strength and support. We pray to the Lord :

5. We commend to your care the sick, suffering and ailing brothers and sisters all over. We pray that you reach out to them and intercede for them in their need to be healed and freed from the bondage of pain and anguish. Be their healer and consoler so that they may experience peace. We pray to the Lord:

Celebrant: Keep us regular Lord - keep us in touch - move our hearts to an ever deeper love of you. We ask these things, through Christ Jesus - who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits. (*Ps 102:2*)

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.

REFLECTION

There lived a servant girl by the name Mary, who had very few opportunities to serve the Lord except to pray for others. Her employer kept her busy with the household duties that she was seldom able to attend any church services. A priest while visiting her in her home one day spoke to her about her busy schedule. "Do you feel frustrated because you can do so little for the Lord?" he asked. "Father, I take a newspaper to my bedroom each night," she replied. The minister wondered what that had to do with the question, but before he could enquire she continued, "I always turn to the columns that records births, marriages and deaths. I pray first that the little babies may be led to the Saviour early in life and become a great blessing to the others. Then I pray that the brides and grooms may be happy and true to each other. Finally I pray for the entire bereaved, one by one, that they may turn to the one source of ever-lasting comfort."

Prayer often times, is bone of contention among many people. Some also would say, "How should I pray? Some would say, "Why bother to pray? I have nothing to ask for." I pray always but nothing happens"? There are so many articles, writings and books about prayer.

Prayer I believe often times is a touch of the Lord or presence of God or an experience of God. Through our daily spiritual exercises we experience him during the day and at end of the day we are transformed provided we experience his touch often times. A Christian without Christ is like a vehicle without brake and accelerator. He could not move or stop. If we take the word 'CHRIST' from the word 'CHRISTIAN', the remaining letters are 'IAN' which means I Am Nothing. In other words, without Christ, I am nothing at all.

In today's gospel, Jesus says: "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you," (v. 9). God is faithful to all His promises. In prayer, we do not expect God to answer us in the way we want but in the way God wants because He knows what is best for us. Hence the saying: "Man proposes, God disposes." There was a father who was diagnosed to have a terminal lung cancer. He was given two months to live. So the children prayed to God to give their daddy some years to live. Sad to say, the father died before the two months ended. The children were desperate and down because for them God did not answer their prayers. The mother told her children: "God answered your prayer but in a different way. He didn't want your papa to suffer long with terrible pains, so He took him away much earlier than expected." To end my reflection let us reflect on what Benjamin Franklin had said: "Work as if you were to live 100 years and pray as if you were to die tomorrow."

- Rev. Fr. Peter Mascarenhas *smm*

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