



PRAYERS *for* SUNDAYS *in* AUGUST

A resource for praying at home



The EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY *in* ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 2nd August 2020

THE INTRODUCTION

Light a candle and spend some time in silence if you can. Jesus promises rest to all who bring their burdens to him. Giving thanks for his great love, you might want to sing or say this hymn:

ALLELUIA, sing to Jesus,
His the sceptre, his the throne;
Alleluia, his the triumph,
His the victory alone:
Hark the songs of peaceful Sion
Thunder like a mighty flood;
Jesus, out of every nation,
Hath redeemed us by his Blood.

Alleluia, not as orphans
Are we left in sorrow now;
Alleluia, he is near us,
Faith believes, nor questions how;
Though the cloud from sight received him
When the forty days were o'er,
Shall our hearts forget his promise,
'I am with you evermore'?

Alleluia, Bread of angels,
Thou on earth our Food, our Stay;
Alleluia, here the sinful
Flee to thee from day to day;
Intercessor, Friend of sinners,
Earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
Where the songs of all the sinless
Sweep across the crystal sea.

Alleluia, King eternal,
Thee the Lord of lords we own;
Alleluia, born of Mary,
Earth thy footstool, Heaven thy throne:
Thou within the veil hast entered,
Robed in flesh, our great High Priest;
Thou on earth both Priest and Victim
In the Eucharistic Feast.

W. Chatterton Dix (1837-98)

Then, making the sign of the Cross, say:

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Spend some time in silence, calling to your mind your sins. Then say,
Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of Peace: Lord, have mercy.
You heal the wounds of our sin and division: Christ, have mercy.
You intercede for us with the Father: Lord have mercy.

Remind yourself of the gift of God's forgiveness, by reading these words from 1 John 1.9: If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Then say the Collect: Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Then read today's appointed readings:



- *Isaiah 55:1-3: Come and eat.*
- *Romans 8:35-39: No created thing can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ.*

Alleluia, alleluia! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

- *Matthew 14.13-21: They all ate as much as they wanted.*

Spend some time in quiet contemplation, asking the Holy Spirit to show you what the scriptures have to say to you today. And then pause to pray for the Church, the world and all its needs.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Say the OUR FATHER. Then make your act of SPIRITUAL COMMUNION. Spend a moment meditating on Jesus' love for us and your own longing for life in union with him. Then pray:

MY JESUS, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Spend some time in silence, giving thanks, and then say:

Blessed, praised and adored be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory, and in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen. Alleluia!

In thanksgiving, you might want to sing this hymn:

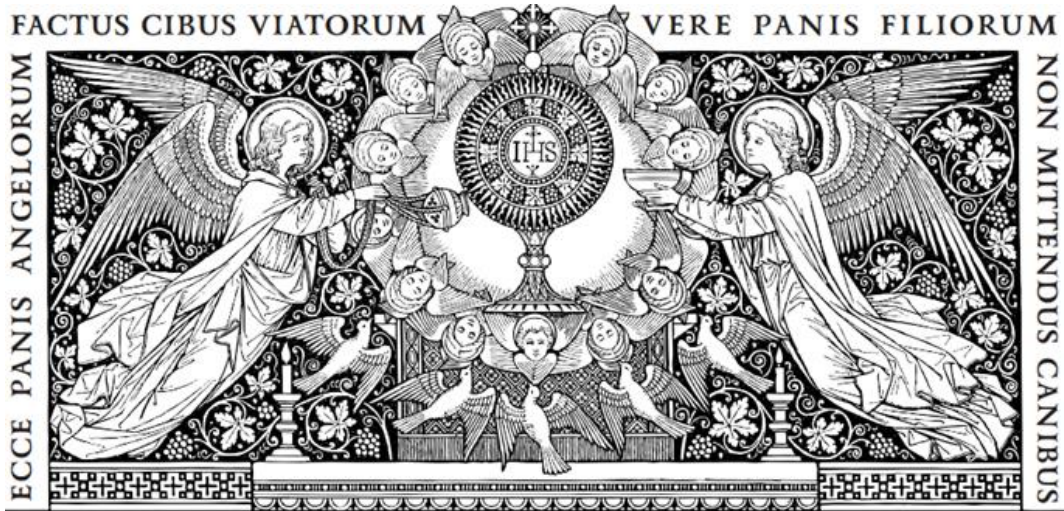
BREAD OF HEAVEN, on thee we feed,
For thy flesh is meat indeed;
Ever may our souls be fed
With this true and living bread,
Day by day with strength supplied
Through the life of him who died.

Vine of heaven, thy blood supplies
This blest cup of sacrifice;
'Tis thy wounds our healing give;
To thy cross we look and live:
Thou our life! O let us be
Rooted, grafted, built on thee.

Josiah Conder (1789-1855)

Say this concluding prayer: Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with your heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

And then pray for God's blessing, saying: The Lord bless us, and keep us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.
Let us praise the Lord. Thanks be to God.



The NINETEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 9th August 2020

Use the structure as above, substituting these hymns and readings:

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on.
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see
The distant scene; one step enough for me.

2. I was not ever thus, nor prayed that thou
Shouldst lead me on;
I loved to choose and see my path; but now
Lead thou me on.
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears,
Pride ruled my will:
remember not past years.

3. So long thy power hath blest me, sure it still
Will lead me on
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till
The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since,
and lost awhile.

S. John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

The Collect: Almighty ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The readings are:

- *1 Kings 19.9-13: Stand on the mountain before the Lord.*
- *Romans 9.1-5: I would willingly be condemned if it would help my brothers.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! My soul is waiting for the Lord. Alleluia!

- *Matthew 14.22-33: Tell me to come to you across the water.*

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

GUIDE ME, O thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
Hold me with thy powerful hand:
Bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more.

2 Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through:
Strong Deliverer,
Be thou still my strength and shield.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's Destruction
Land me safe on Canaan's side:
Songs of praises
I will ever give to thee.

William Williams (1717-91)

The concluding prayer: May our spiritual communion in the body and blood of Our Lord strengthen us and confirm us in the light of your truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The ASSUMPTION *of the* BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Sunday, 16th August 2020

For an opening hymn, you may wish to sing or say:

SING we of the blessed Mother
Who received the angel's word,
And obedient to his summons,
Bore in love the infant Lord;
Sing we of the joys of Mary
At whose breast that child was fed
Who is Son of God eternal
And the everlasting Bread.

2. Sing we, too, of Mary's sorrows,
Of the sword that pierced her through,
When beneath the cross of Jesus
She his weight of suffering knew,
Looked upon her Son and Saviour
Reigning high on Calvary's tree,
Saw the price of man's redemption
Paid to set the sinner free.

3. Sing again the joys of Mary
When she saw the risen Lord,
And in prayer with Christ's apostles,
Waited on his promised word:
From on high the blazing glory
Of the Spirit's presence came,
Heavenly breath of God's own being,
Manifest through wind and flame.

4. Sing the chiefest joy of Mary
When on earth her work was done,
And the Lord of all creation
Brought her to his heavenly home:
Virgin Mother, Mary blessed,
Raised on high and crowned with grace,
May your Son, the world's redeemer,
Grant us all to see his face.

Text by G B Timms (1910-97).

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The Collect: Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

The readings are:

- *Revelation 11.19, 12.1-6, 10: A woman adorned with the sun, standing on the moon.*
- *1 Corinthians 15.20-26: Christ as the first fruits.*

Alleluia, alleluia! Mary has been taken up into heaven; all the choirs of angels are rejoicing. Alleluia!

- *Luke 1.39-56: The Almighty has done great things for me, he has exalted the lowly.*

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

O GLORIOUS MAID, exalted far
Beyond the light of burning star,
From him who made thee thou hast won
Grace to be Mother of his Son.

That which was lost in hapless Eve
Thy holy offspring did retrieve:
Thy tear-worn sons of Adam's race
Through thee have seen the heavenly place.

Thou wast the gate of heaven's high Lord,
The door through which the light hath poured.
Christians rejoice, for through a Maid
To all mankind is life conveyed.

O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee
Eternal praise and glory be,
Whom with the Father we adore
And Holy Spirit, evermore. Amen.



Latin, Venatius Fortunatus (530-609)
Translated by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

The concluding prayer: O Lord, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 23rd August 2020

For an opening hymn, sing or say:

O THOU, WHO AT THY EUCHARIST didst pray
that all thy Church might be for ever one,
grant us at every Eucharist to say
with longing heart and soul, “thy will be done.”

O may we all one Bread, one Body be,
through this blest Sacrament of unity.

For all thy Church, O Lord, we intercede;
make thou our sad divisions soon to cease;
draw us the nearer each to each, we plead,
by drawing all to thee, O Prince of Peace;
thus may we all one Bread, one Body be,
through this blest Sacrament of unity.

We pray thee too for wanderers from thy fold;
O bring them back, good Shepherd of the sheep,
back to the faith which saints believed of old,
back to the Church which still that faith doth keep;
soon may we all one Bread, one Body be,
through this blest Sacrament of unity.

So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease,
may we be one with all thy Church above,
one with thy saints in one unbroken peace,
one with thy saints in one unbounded love;
more blessèd still, in peace and love to be
one with the Trinity in Unity.



The Collect: O God, who cause the minds of the faithful to unite in a single purpose, grant your people to love what you command and to desire what you promise, that, amid the uncertainties of this world, our hearts may be fixed on that place where true gladness is found. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The readings are:

- *Isaiah 22.19-23: The key of the House of David on his shoulder.*
- *Romans 11.33-36: All comes from him; all is by him and for him.*

Alleluia, alleluia! God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us that they are reconciled.

- *Matt. 16.13-20: I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.*

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us
You are one with us, Mary's Son.
Cleansing our souls from all their sin.
Pouring Your love and goodness in.
Jesus our love for you we sing,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, Now and every day
Teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
This in remembrance Lord of you
Into our lives your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, You have come to us
Born as one with us, Mary's Son.
Led out to die on Calvary,
Risen from death to set us free,
Living Lord Jesus help us see
You are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you
Live my life for you, Son of God.
All your commands I know are true,
Your many gifts will make me new,
Into my life your power breaks through,
Living Lord.

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The concluding prayer: Complete within us, O Lord, we pray, the healing work of your mercy and graciously perfect and sustain us, so that in all things we may please you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, 30th August 2020

For an opening hymn, sing or say:

He who would valiant be
‘Gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy
Follow the Master.
There’s no discouragement
Shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent
To be a pilgrim.

Who so beset him round
With dismal stories,
Do but themselves confound —
His strength the more is.
No foes shall stay his might,
Though he with giants fight:
He will make good his right
To be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, thou dost defend
Us with thy Spirit,
We know we at the end
Shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away!
I’ll fear not what men say,
I’ll labour night and day
To be a pilgrim.

John Bunyan (1628-88) and Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

The Collect: God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that, by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The readings are:

- *Jeremiah 20.7-9: The word of the Lord has meant insult for me.*
- *Romans 12.1-2: Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.*

Alleluia, alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so we can see what hope his call hold for us. Alleluia!

- *Matthew 16.21-27: Let him renounce himself.*

As a hymn in thanksgiving after your act of spiritual communion:

ROCK OF AGES, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee;
Let the water and the blood,
From thy riven side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure,
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2. Not the labours of my hands
Can fulfil thy law's demands;
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears for ever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to thee for dress;
Helpless, look to thee for grace;
Foul, I to the fountain fly;
Wash me, Saviour, or I die.

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eyes are closed in death,
When I soar through tracts unknown,
See thee on thy judgement throne;
Rock of ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in thee.

Augustus Toplady (1740-78)

The concluding prayer: Renewed by our Spiritual Communion with the Body and Blood of your Son, we beseech you, Lord, that, being the food of charity, it may confirm our hearts and stir us to serve you in our neighbour. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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