

20/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 8:16-17

'No one [lights](#) a lamp to cover it with a bowl or to put it under a bed. No, it is put on a lamp-stand so that people may see the light when they come in. ¹⁷ For nothing is hidden but it [will](#) be made clear, nothing [secret](#) but it [will](#) be made known and brought to light. Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

21/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 9:12b-13

'It is not the healthy who need the doctor, but the sick. ¹³ Go and learn the meaning of the words: Mercy is what pleases me, not sacrifice. And indeed I came to call not the upright, but sinners.' Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

22/9/2010

A reading from the Book of Psalms 118

Keep me, Lord, from the way of error and teach me your law. The law from your mouth means more to me than silver and gold. Your word, O lord, forever stands firm in the heavens. Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

23/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 9:7-9

Meanwhile [Herod](#) the tetrarch had heard about all that was going on; and he was puzzled, because some people were saying that [John](#) had risen from the dead, ⁸ others that [Elijah](#) had reappeared, still others that one of the ancient prophets had come back to life. ⁹ But [Herod](#) said, 'John? I beheaded him. So who is this I hear such reports about?' And he was anxious to see him. Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

24/9/2010

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes 1:5,7

⁵ The sun rises, the sun sets; then to its place it speeds and there it rises. ⁷ Into the sea go all the rivers, and yet the sea is never filled, and still to their goal the rivers go. Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

25/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 9:43b-45

At a time when everyone was full of admiration for all he did, he said to his disciples, ⁴⁴ 'For your part, you must have these words constantly in mind: The Son of [man](#) is going to be delivered into the power of men.' ⁴⁵ But they did not understand what he said; it was hidden from them so that they should not see the meaning of it, and they were afraid to ask him about it. Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

26/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 16:19-31-

Jesus said to the Pharisees: ¹⁹ 'There was a rich [man](#) who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. ²⁰ And at his gate there used to lie a poor [man](#) called Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to fill himself with what fell from the rich man's table. Even dogs came and licked his sores. ²² Now it happened that the poor [man](#) died and was carried away by the [angels](#) into Abraham's embrace. The rich [man](#) also died and was buried. ²³ 'In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw [Abraham](#) a long way off with [Lazarus](#) in his embrace. ²⁴ So he cried out, "Father Abraham, pity me and send [Lazarus](#) to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames." ²⁵ Abraham said, "My son, remember that during your [life](#) you had your fill of [good](#) things, just as [Lazarus](#) his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. ²⁶ But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to prevent those who want to cross from our side to yours or from your side to ours." ²⁷ 'So he said, "Father, I beg you then to send [Lazarus](#) to my father's house, ²⁸ since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too." ²⁹ Abraham said, "They have [Moses](#) and the prophets, let them listen to them." ³⁰ The rich [man](#) replied, "Ah no, father Abraham, but if someone comes to them from the dead, they [will](#) repent." ³¹ Then [Abraham](#) said to him, "If they [will](#) not listen either to [Moses](#) or to the prophets, they [will](#) not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead." Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

27/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 9:48

'Anyone who welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. The least among you all is the one who is the greatest.' Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

28/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 9:54-56

⁵⁴ Seeing this, the disciples [James](#) and [John](#) said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from [heaven](#) to burn them up?' ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them, ⁵⁶ and they went on to another village. Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

29/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 1:47-49

⁴⁷ When [Jesus](#) saw [Nathanael](#) coming he said of him, 'There, truly, is an Israelite in whom there is no deception.' ⁴⁸ Nathanael asked, 'How do you know me?' [Jesus](#) replied, 'Before Philip came to call you, I saw you under the fig tree.' ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the king of Israel.' Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

30/9/2010

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke 10:1-2

¹ After this the [Lord](#) appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him in pairs, to

all the towns and places he himself would be visiting.² And he said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the [Lord](#) of the harvest to send labourers to do his harvesting. Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, Saint Paul Chong
Hasang, and their companions

Prayer for the Morning

*Jesus Christ is the glory of the martyrs:
come, let us adore him!*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!*

HYMN

Metre: LM

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
When I Behold the Wondrous Cross*

In robes washed white, with palms held high,
The martyr host goes marching by;
They climb the hill to Sion's gate
Wherein the choirs of glory wait.

No moon by night, no sun by day
Can harm them on their royal way;
No prowling beast, no hunter's snare
Can hinder them who travel there.

The Lamb, their Shepherd, leads them in,
Who would not yield to death or sin;
He bids them rest in fields of peace,
In rock-born waters find surcease.

May we who walk the pathways beat
By those no terror could defeat
Join in their psalms of victory
Before the holy One in Three.

CANTICLE

Wisdom 3: 1-6

He holds in his power the soul of every living thing, / and the breath
of each man's body. (cf. Jb 12: 10)

The martyrs bear witness to the heart of Christ's sacrifice: they sur-
render their lives into God's hands to do with as he will. To them, the
present cost of their offering counts as nothing in comparison with
life with the Lord who awaits them.

But the souls of the virtuous are in the hands of God,
no torment shall ever touch them.

In the eyes of the unwise, they did appear to die,
their going looked like a disaster,
their leaving us, like annihilation;
But they are in peace.

If they experienced punishment as men see it,
their hope was rich with immortality;
slight was their affliction, great will their blessings be.
God has put them to the test
and proved them worthy to be with him;

he has tested them like gold in a furnace,
and accepted them as a holocaust.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

THAT IS WHY THERE IS NO weak-
ening on our part, and
instead, though this outer man of ours may be falling
into decay, the inner man is renewed day by day. Yes, the
troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little,
train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory
which is out of all proportion to them. And so we have
no eyes for things that are visible, but only for things

that are invisible; for visible things last only for a time, and the invisible things are eternal.

The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours!

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

The crucible for silver, a furnace for gold, / but the LORD for the testing of hearts! (Pr 17: 3)

INTERCESSIONS

The martyrs bear witness to the cost and the reward of living according to the Gospel. Through their intercession, let us pray:

R Make your people steadfast in faith, O Lord.

For the Church throughout the world:

– that we may live the Gospel faith for which the martyrs died. *R*

For those who suffer persecution for the Gospel's sake:

– that they may find strength in the example of the martyrs. *R*

For the Christians of Korea, and the Korean churches in this country:

– that their lives may be a light to their neighbours. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O God of all glory, the genuineness of the martyrs' faith, more precious than gold that is perishable even though tested by fire, serves the praise, glory, and honour of Jesus Christ. Through their intercession, grant to all your Church the fortitude of faith, the joy of love, and the determination born of hope through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

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MASS

Monday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAEGON, PAUL CHONG HASANG,
AND COMPANIONS

Memorial

● *During the persecutions of 1839, 1846, 1866, and 1867, one hundred and three Christians in Korea gave their lives as martyrs. Among them were Father Andrew Kim Taegon, first Korean priest and pastor, and the lay apostle, Paul Chong Hasang. The martyrs included bishops and priests, but for the most part, they were members of the laity. They consecrated the rich beginnings of the Church in Korea with their blood. "I urge you to remain steadfast in faith, so that at last we will all reach heaven and there rejoice together." – Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, Final Exhortation* ●

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, and keep a festival in honour of Andrew and Paul and their companions. Let us join with the angels in joyful praise to the Son of God.

OPENING PRAYER

O God,
you have created all nations
and you are their salvation.
In the land of Korea your call to Catholic faith
formed a people of adoption,
whose growth you nurtured
by the blood of Andrew, Paul, and their companions.
Through their martyrdom and their intercession
grant us strength
that we too may remain faithful to your commandments
even until death.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

• *The wilful wrong-doer is abhorrent to the LORD.* •

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

3: 27-34

MY SON, DO NOT REFUSE a kindness to anyone who begs it/ if it is in your power to perform it/ Do not say to your neighbour, "Go away! Come another time/ I will give it you tomorrow", if you can do it now.

Do not plot harm against your neighbour/ as he lives unsuspecting next door/ Do not pick a groundless quarrel with a man/ who has done you no harm.

Do not emulate the man of violence/ never model your conduct on his/ for the wilful wrong-doer is abhorrent to the LORD/ who confides only in honest men.

The LORD's curse lies on the house of the wicked/ but he blesses the home of the virtuous/ He mocks those who mock/ but accords his favour to the humble.
This is the word of the Lord.

• **PSALM 14** •

R(1) The just will live in the presence of the Lord.

He who walks without fault;
he who acts with justice
and speaks the truth from his heart. **R**

He who does no wrong to his brother,
who casts no slur on his neighbour,
who holds the godless in disdain,
but honours those who fear the LORD. **R**

He who keeps his pledge, come what may;
who takes no interest on a loan
and accepts no bribes against the innocent.
Such a man will stand firm for ever. **R**

Alleluia, alleluia! Your light must shine in the sight of men,/ so that, seeing your good works,/ they may give the praise to your Father in heaven. **Alleluia!**

• *A lamp is placed on a lamp-stand so that people may see the light when they come in.* •

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Luke**

8: 16-18

JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES:
"No one lights a lamp to cover it with a bowl or to put it under a bed. No, he puts it on a lamp-stand so that people may see the light when they come in. For nothing is hidden but it will be made clear, nothing secret but it will be known and brought to light. So take care how you hear; for anyone who has will be given more; from anyone who has not, even what he thinks he has will be taken away."
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

All-powerful God,
in your goodness accept these gifts we offer
and through the intercession of your holy martyrs
grant that our own lives will become a sacrifice
acceptable to you
for the salvation of all the world.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If anyone declares himself for me in the presence of men, I will declare myself for him in the presence of my Father in heaven. (Mt 10: 32)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
we have been nourished in this celebration of your holy martyrs
with the food that gave them strength.
Grant that we too will remain loyal to Christ
and labour in your Church for the salvation of all.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

How Our Light Shines

Martyrdom means bearing witness to God. Every soul that seeks in pureness of heart to know God and obeys the commandments of God is a martyr, bearing witness by life or by words.

In fact even if it is not a matter of shedding blood, the soul is pouring out its faith because it is by faith that the soul will be separated from the body before a person dies.

That is why, in the Gospel, the Lord praises the person "who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the Gospel." That person is blessed because he too is going to meet martyrdom simply by living in a way that is different from the crowd, because he is following the rule of the Gospel for love of his Lord.

The truly righteous are set apart from the world because they produce the fruits of grace in their actions. They do this because they have been able to become a friend of God and to obtain a place at the right hand of the Father, as the apostles have done.

SAINT CLEMENT OF ALEXANDRIA

Saint Clement of Alexandria († 215) was a renowned theologian and teacher of the faith.

Prayer for the Evening

*In God let our hearts rejoice;
he is our help and our shield.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: LM

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Jesu, Dulcis Memoria*

Around the throne a glorious band,
The saints in countless numbers stand,
Of ev'ry tongue, redeemed to God,
Arrayed in garments washed in blood.

Through tribulation great they came;
They bore the cross, despised the shame;
From all their labours now they rest
In God's eternal glory blest.

PSALM 32

8-9, 12-13, 18-22

My portion is the LORD, says my soul, / and so I will hope in him. (Lm 3: 24)

The martyrs' portion is the Lord. For them, that is reward enough. Is it reward enough for us in bearing with love the small burdens of the day?

Let all the earth fear the Lord,
all who live in the world revere him.
He spoke; and it came to be.
He commanded; it sprang into being.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.
From the heavens the Lord looks forth,
he sees all the children of men.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Glory to the Father...

Word of God

Philippians 3: 8-9a, 9c-11

NOT ONLY THAT, BUT I believe nothing can happen that will outweigh the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For him I have accepted the loss of everything, and I look on everything as so much rubbish if only I can have Christ and be given a place in him. I want only the perfection that comes through faith in Christ, and is from God and based on faith. All I want is to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and to share his sufferings by reproducing the pattern of his

death. That is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead.

*Bear the hardships for the sake of the Good News,
relying on the power of God.*

(2 Tm 1: 8)

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more. (Ph 1: 21)

INTERCESSIONS

Strengthened by the faith of the martyrs, let us pray:

R Hear us, O Lord.

You delivered the disciples imprisoned for preaching without fear in your name:

– deliver all those imprisoned in infidelity by fear of displeasing others. *R*

You kept your martyrs steadfast in the face of every threat:

– make steadfast those tempted to compromise their discipleship for fear of consequences. *R*

You raised to life the martyrs who chose death rather than faithlessness:

– raise all those who have died. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

May the God of peace be with you all! Amen. (cf. Rm 15: 33)

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

SAINTS

OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

Trust in the Lord!

SAINT AGATHA YI KAN-NAN

Widow and Martyr (1813-1846)

At the age of twenty, Agatha Yi Kan-nan, the daughter of a pagan Korean family, lost her husband only two years after her wedding. Soon afterward, the young widow learned of the Catholic faith. Refusing to remarry, she asked her mother to find for her a Catholic to instruct her in the faith. Having arranged for a Catholic relative to teach her daughter, Agatha's mother decided to become a Catholic also, as did Agatha's brother. Agatha's father, however, angered by the conversion of his family, punished Agatha by ordering her to live with her deceased husband's family. These relatives, touched by Agatha's gentle disposition, came to admire her to the point that one sister-in-law also became a Catholic. Agatha ultimately bought a home of her own. She was known to be deeply devout, mortifying herself with frequent fasting. Her fellow Catholics revered her for her exceptional chastity, deeming her "as clear as a mirror and as pure as snow." On July 10, 1846, Agatha was arrested for her faith by agents of Korea's pagan regime. After being repeatedly tortured, the thirty-three-year-old widow was put to death on September 20, 1846.

Help me, O Lord, for I am resolved to amend my life.

Saint Alphonsus Liguori

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Saint Matthew

Prayer for the Morning

*The word goes out to all the earth:
let us give thanks and praise!*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: CMD

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

The tax collector left his tolls
To count a different coin
As wealth his gospel word extols
Though folly would rejoin
That passing treasure gives delight
Enough to fill our days.
Saint Matthew, walking in the light,
Saw riches in God's praise.

The tax collector left the gold
Of Rome for gold from Christ
Who offered words both new and old
That haunted and enticed
A man of worldly means to give
All that he had to write
Those words for all who yet would live
To ponder day and night.

The tax collector left to us
The story he had learned
That we might rise from ash and dust
To treasure what he earned:

A life beyond what gold can buy,
A pearl that has no price,
A wealth that folly passes by,
The love of Jesus Christ.

PSALM 18

2-7

Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (Mt 28: 19)

We who take access to words for granted should pause to be grateful to those who preserved the Gospel words so carefully and spread them to the utmost bounds of the world without benefit of the printing press or instantaneous media.

The heavens proclaim the glory of God
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.
Day unto day takes up the story
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard
yet their span extends through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent,
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun;
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

1 Thessalonians 2: 13

ANOTHER REASON WHY we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really

is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.

Repent and believe the Good News. (Mk 1: 15)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

For this is what I received from the Lord, and in turn passed on to you (1 Co 11: 23)

INTERCESSIONS

In gratitude for the Gospel given to us through the faithful ministry of the evangelists and their hearers, let us pray:

R Plant in every place the seed of your Gospel.

For the literate and those who have easy access to many media:

– grant us the reverence of former ages for the sacredness of your word. **R**

For the illiterate:

– send preachers and teachers to open for them the riches of your word. **R**

For those who live in places where your word is banned:
– bless the efforts of societies and individuals who seek ways to carry the good news to them. **R**

Personal intentions

Our Father...

Lord Jesus Christ, you changed Matthew's life by the good news which you entrusted to him. May we receive the Gospel with reverence, live it in faith, and hand it on in love. Grant this our prayer, who live and reign with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

MASS

Feast of Saint Matthew

Saint Matthew is a familiar figure among the apostles. His Gospel, with its constant references to the messianic prophecies, throws most light on the continuity between the two covenants. Moreover, his vocation is one of the most popular episodes in the life of Jesus, because of the personality of the one called "the tax collector" and the revelation of redeeming love that concludes and crowns the story. Mark and Luke call Matthew by his Jewish name of Levi, and Mark says he was "the son of Alphaeus" (Mk 2: 14). He may have been the brother of another apostle, James, who is also called "the son of Alphaeus" (Mk 3: 18), which would explain how he already had some contacts with Jesus' followers. Because of his profession, Jews of strict observance would have nothing to do with him, for he fell under a religious ban. Jesus' call (Opening Prayer) was therefore all the more remarkable, as was Matthew's generous response. He stood up at once, "leaving everything" (Lk 5: 28). Then came the feast of friendship, at which the publican turned disciple invited to his table, with Jesus, both old and new friends. And the Lord said, "I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners" (Communion Antiphon, Prayer after Communion).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Go and preach to all nations: baptise them and teach them to observe all that I have commanded you, says the Lord. (Mt 28: 19-20)

GLORIA ————— page 450

OPENING PRAYER

God of mercy,
you chose a tax collector, Saint Matthew,
to share the dignity of the apostles.
By his example and prayers
help us to follow Christ
and remain faithful in your service.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

● To some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some evangelists. ●

A reading from

the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 4: 1-7, 11-13

I, THE PRISONER IN THE LORD, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

Each one of us, however, has been given his own share of grace, given as Christ allotted it.

To some, his gift was that they should be apostles; to some, prophets; to some, evangelists; to some, pastors and teachers; so that the saints together make a unity in the work of service, building up the body of Christ. In this way we are all to come to unity in our faith and in our knowledge of the Son of God, until we become the perfect Man, fully mature with the fullness of Christ himself.

This is the word of the Lord.

. PSALM 18 .

℟ (5) The heavens proclaim the glory of God.

The heavens proclaim the glory of God;
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.

Day unto day takes up the story
and night unto night makes known the message. *R*

No speech, no word, no voice is heard
yet their span extends through all the earth,
their words to the utmost bounds of the world. *R*

Alleluia, alleluia! We praise you, O God,/ we acknowledge you to be the Lord./ The glorious company of the apostles praise you. **Alleluia!**

● *Follow me. And he got up and followed him.* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Matthew** 9: 9-13

AS JESUS WAS WALKING ON he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, *I desire mercy, not sacrifice*. I did not come to call the righteous but sinners." This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
accept the prayers and gifts we present
on this feast of Saint Matthew.
Continue to guide us in your love
as you nourished the faith of your Church
by the preaching of the apostles.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES I

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

You are the eternal Shepherd
who never leaves his flock untended.
Through the apostles
you watch over us and protect us always.
You made them shepherds of the flock
to share in the work of your Son,
and from their place in heaven they guide us still.
And so, with all the choirs of angels in heaven
we proclaim your glory
and join in their unending hymn of praise: Holy...

Or:

PREFACE OF THE APOSTLES II

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

You founded your Church on the apostles
to stand firm for ever
as the sign on earth of your infinite holiness
and as the living Gospel for all men to hear.

With steadfast love
we sing your unending praise:
we join with the hosts of heaven
in their triumphant song: Holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I did not come to call the virtuous, but sinners, says the Lord.
(Mt 9: 13)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father,
in this Eucharist we have shared the joy of salvation
which Saint Matthew knew when he welcomed your Son.
May this food renew us in Christ,
who came to call not the just
but sinners to salvation in his kingdom
where he is Lord for ever and ever.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Prologos

LORD, a dream of Thee lies on my soul, but
 I cannot reach Thee for all my gates are barred!
 I am besieged as by armies, I am locked
 in my everlasting solitude.

My hands are broken and my head is bruised in
 trying to escape, all the images of my spirit
 have become shadows.

For no ray falls from Thee into the depth of my
 loneliness, it is lighted only by the moonbeams
 of my soul.

How did you come in to me, O voice of my God?
 Is it only the cry of wild birds over the waters?

I have carried you to all the mountains of hope,
 but they too are but my own hilltops.

I have gone down to the waters of despair,
 but they are not deeper than my own heart.

My love is like a stairway in the soul – but ever and
 forever I am only in myself.

I can find no rest in my many chambers,
 the stillest of them is like a single cry.

The last of them is yet but an antechamber,
 the holiest of them is like an awaiting,
 the darkest of all yet like a song of day!

GERTRUDE VON LE FORT

Gertrude von Le Fort († 1971) was born in Germany. She was a convert to Catholicism and the author of novels and poems.

Prayer for the Evening

*The word of the LORD is faithful/ and all his works
 to be trusted: let us give him thanks and praise!*
 (cf. Ps 32: 4)

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
 Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and
 ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!*

HYMN

Metre: LM

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
 When I Behold the Wondrous Cross*

To Mercy's table are we called,
 By Mercy are we bidden eat
 The bread of life that Mercy breaks
 Upon the cross, true Mercy's seat.

The tax collector feeds on wealth
 That cost the poor their board and bread.
 The tax collector seems to thrive,
 But deep within, the heart is dead.

The Word of life bids Matthew rise
 And feast upon a different fare
 Where Christ hoards nothing but the good
 Of starving sinners nourished there.

The sinner lives, the dead arise,
 The poor are fed by Mercy's hand
 On bread and wine which taste of love
 That flows from heaven's promised land.

PSALM 18

8-11, 15

You have the message of eternal life. (Jn 6: 68)

In response to Jesus' call, Matthew left his tax collector's table for the table to which Jesus called sinners. He exchanged the gold of this

world for the gold of God's word. May we learn from him to lay up treasures in heaven by storing in our hearts the treasures of the Gospel.

The law of the Lord is perfect,
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,
they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear,
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy,
abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth
and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold,
than the purest of gold,
and sweeter are they than honey,
than honey from the comb.

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rescuer, my rock!

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Sirach 24: 18-19, 21

APPROACH ME, you who desire
me, and take your fill of my
fruits, for memories of me are sweeter than honey,
inheriting me is sweeter than the honeycomb. Whoever

listens to me will never have to blush, / whoever acts as I
dictate will never sin.

Taste and see how sweet the Lord is! (cf. Ps 33: 9)

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

But Israel I would feed with finest wheat, / and fill them with honey
from the rock. (Ps 80: 17)

INTERCESSIONS

O Lord, you feed us on the word of life. Through the
intercession of Saint Matthew, we pray:

R. Jesus, we are hungry; give us this day our daily
bread at the table of your word.

O Lord, your word gives wisdom to the simple:
– nourish in us simplicity of heart. *R.*

O Lord, your word is sweet to the taste:
– grant us the discernment to prefer its taste to any
empty words we may hear this evening. *R.*

O Lord, your word is steadfast, abiding for ever:
– strengthen us to walk firmly on the path to everlasting
life. *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

*Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home
with you. Amen. (cf. Co 3: 16)*

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

Prayer for the Morning

Sing praise to God, sing praise!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: irregular

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
God's Blessing Sends Us Forth*

O Splendour, Glory bright,
Brought forth as Light from Light!
O Day, all days enlightening!
Angels with one accord
Cry, "Holy, holy Lord!"
To you, our everlasting King.

Come, raise the anthem high!
Let praises fill the sky!
Sing out a new song unto the Lord:
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before the throne rejoice
Of him whom heav'n and earth adore.

PSALM 46

No servant can be the slave of two masters. (Lk 16: 13)

This psalm has consequences. If we say that God is really the ruler of all the earth, and all earthly authorities, we must ask ourselves whom we honour and why, whom we praise and why, whom we obey and why.

All peoples, clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!

For the Lord, the Most High, we must fear,
great king over all the earth.

He subdues peoples under us
and nations under our feet.
Our inheritance, our glory, is from him,
given to Jacob out of love.

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.
Sing praise for God, sing praise,
sing praise to our king, sing praise.

God is king of all the earth.
Sing praise with all your skill.
God is king over the nations;
God reigns on his holy throne.

The princes of the peoples are assembled
with the people of Abraham's God.
The rulers of the earth belong to God,
to God who reigns over all.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

1 Corinthians 15: 25-27a, 28

[CHRIST] MUST BE KING until
he has put all his enemies
under his feet and the last of the enemies to be
destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his
feet. —Though when it is said that everything is sub-
jected, this clearly cannot include the One who subject-
ed everything to him. And when everything is subjected
to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn

to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

For the unsubmitive who refused to take truth for their guide and took depravity instead, there will be anger and fury. (Rm 2: 8)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

You know that if you agree to serve and obey a master you become his slaves. You cannot be slaves of sin that leads to death and at the same time slaves of obedience that leads to righteousness. (Rm 6: 16)

INTERCESSIONS

To the God of heaven and earth, we pray:

℟ Your kingdom come!

God of power and might, all authority comes from you:
– enlighten with your wisdom all those whom you appoint to positions of authority in Church or state. ℟

All obedience is due to you:
– instill in us a spirit of responsible obedience to all those whom you have entrusted with legitimate authority. ℟

All honour is yours by right:
– grant us a spirit of discernment so that we may honour only those who are truly honourable in your sight. ℟

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O Lord our God, you alone are God, and there is no other. Grant us an undivided heart, to love and serve you with all our mind and all our strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS

Wednesday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Christ sends the Twelve out only minimally provisioned. Why? As the Book of Proverbs explains, "Lest, being full, I deny you, saying, 'Who is the Lord?'" In the poverty, trust, and obedience of the Twelve, all the world will recognise that "God is a shield to those who take refuge in him."

(The prayers suggested today are those of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time.)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the Saviour of all people, says the Lord. Whatever their troubles, I will answer their cry, and I will always be their Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Father,
guide us, as you guide creation
according to your law of love.
May we love one another
and come to perfection
in the eternal life prepared for us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

● Give me neither poverty nor riches, grant me only my share of bread to eat. ●

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

30: 5-9

EVERY WORD OF GOD is unalloyed, he is the shield of those who take refuge in him. To his words make no addition, lest he reprove you and know you for a fraud. Two things I beg of you, do not grudge me them before

I die:/ keep falsehood and lies far from me,/ give me neither poverty nor riches,/ grant me only my share of bread to eat,/ for fear that surrounded by plenty, I should fall away/ and say, "the LORD, Who is the LORD?"/ or else, in destitution, take to stealing/ and profane the name of my God.

This is the word of the Lord.

• PSALM 118 •

R (105) Your word is a lamp for my steps, O Lord.

Keep me, Lord, from the way of error
and teach me your law.

The law from your mouth means more to me
than silver and gold. **R**

Your word, O Lord, for ever
stands firm in the heavens.

I turn my feet from evil paths
to obey your word. **R**

I gain understanding from your precepts
and so I hate false ways.

Lies I hate and detest

but your law is my love. **R**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Kingdom of God is close at hand,
repent and believe the Good News. **Alleluia!**

● *Jesus sent them out to proclaim the Kingdom of God
and to heal.* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Luke**

9: 1-6

JESUS CALLED THE TWELVE
together and gave them
power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases,

and he sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal. He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey: neither staff, nor haversack, nor bread, nor money; and let none of you take a spare tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there; and when you leave, let it be from there. As for those who do not welcome you, when you leave their town shake the dust from your feet as a sign to them." So they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the Good News and healing everywhere. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may these gifts which we now offer
to show our belief and our love
be pleasing to you.

May they become for us
the Eucharist of Jesus Christ your Son,
who is Lord for ever and ever.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have laid down your precepts to be faithfully kept. May my footsteps be firm in keeping your commands. (Ps 118: 4-5)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
help us with your kindness.
Make us strong through the Eucharist.
May we put into action
the saving mystery we celebrate.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

The New Fundamental Direction of the Twelve

Is it not normal for man to try to assert his independence, his autonomy? Does not accepting

poverty mean accepting a conversion, agreeing to change the fundamental direction of one's life? Thereafter, we depend on someone else. The serious factor in refusing one's impoverished state is the refusal to live under the guidance, and in the dependence, of someone else. This is the attitude of the people in the desert: they refuse to live by relying on God, and, what is more, they demand that he account for what has happened to them. This is also the position of the Pharisees toward Christ. And what about ourselves? Do we accept this state of dependence, and more importantly, do we know how to find in it one of the secrets of our existence? Can we recognise in it the true source of peace and joy in love? In examining our religious life and our success in prayer, should we not first of all question ourselves as to whether we accept or refuse this state of dependence on God and on Christ? By accepting and even willing our poverty, we do not rejoice in our state of need, but rejoice in the fact that *it is an opportunity to depend on someone else*. This is one of the meanings of the verb "to believe" in the Bible: "to let oneself be carried along by another." On the other hand, if evangelical poverty were only a lack, only the absence of something we need, should we not justifiably avoid it?

FATHER BERNARD BRO, O.P.

Father Bro is a French Dominican priest, a distinguished theologian, and the author of many books.

Prayer for the Evening

Let us rejoice and sing psalms to our God!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: LM

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Lord Jesus Christ, abide with us
Now that the sun has run its course;
Let hope not be obscured by night
But may faith's darkness be as light.

Lord Jesus Christ, give us your peace,
And when the trials of earth shall cease,
Grant us the morning light of grace,
The radiant splendour of your face.

Immortal, Holy, Threefold Light,
Yours be the kingdom, pow'r and might;
All glory be eternally
To you, life-giving Trinity.

PSALM 74

2-8, 10-11

Anyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be exalted. (Mt 23: 12)

Truly humble people are centres of peace because they fear neither their own failure nor others' success. Let us pray for the wisdom to judge as God judges: to look at our own and others' achievements from God's perspective.

We give thanks to you, O God,
we give thanks and call upon your name.
We recount your wonderful deeds.

"When I reach the appointed time,
then I will judge with justice.
Though the earth and all who dwell in it may rock,
it is I who uphold its pillars.

To the boastful I say: 'Do not boast,'
to the wicked: 'Do not flaunt your strength,

do not flaunt your strength on high.
Do not speak with insolent pride.”

For neither from the east nor from the west,
nor from desert or mountains comes judgement,
but God himself is the judge.
One he humbles, another he exalts.

As for me, I will rejoice for ever
and sing psalms to Jacob's God.
He shall break the power of the wicked,
while the strength of the just shall be exalted.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Ephesians 4: 1-6

I, THE PRISONER in the Lord,
implore you therefore to lead
a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another
charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and
patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the
Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one
Body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and
the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord,
one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of
all, over all, through all and within all.

*Humble yourselves before the Lord
and he will lift you up. (Jm 4: 10)*

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

If anyone wants to boast, let him boast of the Lord. (2 Co 10: 17)

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray with confidence to God our strength:

R We call upon your name!

Your deeds are wonderful:

– teach us to boast of your love rather than of our
accomplishments. *R*

You are the rock upon which the world stands firm:

– grant us faith to depend on you rather than on our
own achievements. *R*

You are the true judge of all things:

– open our eyes to see as you see. *R*

You have broken the power of sin and death:

– raise our beloved dead to eternal life. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

*May the blessing of almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy
Spirit, descend upon us and remain with us always.
Amen.*

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

SAINTS

OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

*Be with me, O Lord Jesus,
in all places and at all times.*

SAINT IGNATIUS OF SANTHIA

Priest and Religious (1686-1770)

Lorenzo Maurizio Belvisotti, of Santhia, Italy, was ordained a diocesan priest at the age of twenty-four. Six years later, he entered the Capuchin Order, taking the name Ignatius. Following his religious profession, he distinguished himself by his exceptional fidelity to the evangelical counsel of obedience. In 1727, Father Ignatius was sent to the Capuchins' friary of Torino-Monte, having been chosen to serve as the friary's "prefect of the sacristy" and as a confessor for the laity. It was there that he was to spend twenty-eight of the remaining forty-three years of his life, becoming renowned for all the priests, religious, and laity, including the most obstinate sinners, who flocked to his confessional to receive absolution and spiritual direction. His particular gift for counselling wayward souls led to his being called the "father of sinners and the lost". For a time, Father Ignatius also served as a military chaplain, a hospital chaplain, and a master of novices. He developed an eye disorder that nearly blinded him, but his sight subsequently improved sufficiently for him to resume his full round of priestly labours.

Let us pray with confidence: Let us remain upon the cross.

Saint Bernard

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

Prayer for the Morning

*He was pierced for our offenses;
let us give thanks and praise!*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: LM

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

CANTICLE OF ISAIAH

52: 13-15; 53: 2-5

While we are still alive, we are consigned to our death every day, for the sake of Jesus, so that in our mortal flesh the life of Jesus, too, may be openly shown. (2 Co 4: 11)

Padre Pio was a man of sorrows. He participated daily in the physical suffering of the wounded Christ, in the humiliation and rejection of the spurned Christ, and in the endless labours of the servant Christ, for the sake of those whom Christ redeemed through the cross. And his reward was to rejoice in the triumph of the cross.

See, my servant will prosper, he shall be lifted up, exalted, rise to great heights.

As the crowds were appalled on seeing him—so disfigured did he look that he seemed no longer human—so will the crowds be astonished at him, and kings stand speechless before him; for they shall see something never told and witness something never heard before: Like a sapling he grew up in front of us, like a root in arid ground.

Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, a man to make people screen their faces; he was despised and we took no account of him.

And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried.

But we, we thought of him as someone punished, struck by God, and brought low. Yet he was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins.

On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Galatians 2: 19b-20

I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED with Christ, and I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me.

It makes me happy to suffer for you, as I am suffering now, and in my own body to do what I can to make up all that has still to be undergone by Christ for the sake of his body, the Church. (Co 1: 24)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

I want no more trouble from anybody after this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus. (Ga 6: 17)

INTERCESSIONS

With confidence in the mercy of the Crucified, let us pray through the intercession of Saint Pio:

R. Lord, have mercy.

For those who give their lives to the mystery of the cross for the sake of others:

– grant them the courage of their vocation. *R.*

For those who suffer without understanding the value of their suffering:

– teach them to put their hope in the cross. *R.*

For those who reject suffering:

– let the suffering of others enlighten them. *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

God of mercy and of love, you called your servant Padre Pio to extend the mystery of the cross visibly into the lives of sinners and sufferers, that they might be converted and believe in the Gospel. Through his intercession, strengthen all believers in willingness to take up the cross daily and follow Jesus Christ your Son, our

Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever. Amen.

MASS

Thursday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA

Memorial

● "Padre Pio" was born in 1887 in the small Italian village of Pietrelcina. He joined the Capuchin Friars at the age of sixteen and was ordained a priest seven years later. For fifty years at the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo he was a much sought after spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor whose life was devoted to the Eucharist and prayer. Yet despite such notoriety, he would often say, "I only want to be a poor friar who prays." ●

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of God is upon me; he has anointed me. He sent me to bring good news to the poor, and to heal the broken-hearted. (Lk 4: 18)

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
in Saint Pio of Pietrelcina you gave
a light to your faithful people.
You made him a pastor of the Church
to feed your sheep with his word
and to teach them by his example.
Help us by his prayers to keep the faith he taught
and follow the way of life he showed us.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

● *There is nothing new under the sun.* ●

A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

1: 2-11

VANITY OF VANITIES, the Preacher says. Vanity of vanities. Vanity of vanities. All is vanity! For all his toil, his toil under the sun, what does man gain by it? A generation goes, a generation comes, yet the earth stands firm for ever. The sun rises, the sun sets; then to its place it speeds and there it rises. Southward goes the wind, then turns to the north; it turns and turns again; back then to its circling goes the wind. Into the sea all the rivers go, and yet the sea is never filled, and still to their goal the rivers go. All things are wearisome. No man can say that eyes have not had enough of seeing, ears their fill of hearing. What was will be again; what has been done will be done again; and there is nothing new under the sun. Take anything of which it may be said, "Look now, this is new." Already, long before our time, it existed. Only no memory remains of earlier times, just as in times to come next year itself will not be remembered. This is the word of the Lord.

• PSALM 89 •

R (1) O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next.

You turn men back to dust,
and say: "Go back, sons of men."
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **R**

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **R**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. *R.*

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. *R.*

Alleluia, alleluia! I am the Way, the Truth and the Life,
says the Lord;/ no one can come to the Father except
through me. **Alleluia!**

● *I beheaded John, so who is this I hear such reports
about?* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Luke 9: 7-9**

HEROD THE TETRARCH had
heard about all that was
being done by Jesus; and he was puzzled, because some
people were saying that John had risen from the dead,
others that Elijah had reappeared, still others that one of
the ancient prophets had come back to life. But Herod
said, "John? I beheaded him. So who is this I hear such
reports about?" And he was anxious to see Jesus.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father of mercy,
we have these gifts to offer in honour of your saints
who bore witness to your mighty power.
May the power of the Eucharist
bring us your salvation.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I, the Lord, am with you always, until the end of the world.
(Mt 28: 20)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the mysteries we receive
prepare us for the eternal joys
Saint Pio of Pietrelcina won by his faithful ministry.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

The Grace Herod Lacked

Jesus continues to stay with me and he has not yet
left me, for I am finding it increasingly easy to drive
away temptation and resign myself to God's will...
See, then, Father, how far the tenderness and good-
ness of Jesus goes, no matter how bad and wicked
I am!

Meanwhile, what am I to do to correspond to such
great mercy? How am I ever to repay him for such
great benefits? If you only knew how many times in
the past I have exchanged Jesus for some con-
temptible thing appertaining to this world! I see
something mysterious in myself: I am constantly
sorry for the sins I have committed, I resolve continu-
ally never to commit them again, yet, I must admit
with bitter tears, that in spite of all this I am still very
imperfect and it seems to me that I very often offend
the Lord. At times I am really in despair because it
seems to me almost impossible that Jesus should for-
give so many sins; again, more often than not it
seems impossible that Jesus should let me go astray.
Oh, what on earth is all this? Explain it to me a little.

However, all this happens to me without my perceiving it, for I have by no means the will to offend God even to the slightest extent.

I also suffer greatly, Father, when I see how people ignore Jesus, and what is worse, how they even insult him, especially by those dreadful blasphemies. I should like to die, or at least become deaf rather than hear so many insults offered to God by men.

I have prayed to the Lord as follows: Lord, let me die rather than be present when people are offending you. Please recommend me to the Lord and ask him for this grace for men if it should be for his greater glory.

SAINT PIO OF PIETRELCINA

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina († 1968) was an Italian Capuchin priest who during his lifetime enjoyed a vast reputation for sanctity.

Prayer for the Evening

Too heavy for us our offences! Lord, have mercy!

Glory be to the Father... Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: 65 65 D

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
At the Name of Jesus*

Christian! do you see them
On the holy ground,
How the powers of darkness
Rage your steps around?
Christian! up and smite them,
Counting gain but loss;
In the strength that fills you
From the holy cross.

Christian! do you hear them,
How they speak you fair?

"Always fast and vigil?
Always watch and prayer?"
Christian! answer boldly:
"While I breathe I pray!"
Peace shall follow battle,
Night shall end in day.

"Well I know your trouble,
O my servant true;
You are very weary –
I was weary too;
But that toil shall make you
Some day all my own –
And the end of sorrow
Shall be near my throne."

PSALM 64

2-5

Now you must repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out. (Ac 3: 19)

At great cost to himself, Padre Pio devoted himself especially to the personal and sacramental work of penance, that all sinners might know and receive the mercy that flows upon us from the cross of Christ.

To you our praise is due
in Sion, O God.

To you we pay our vows,
you who hear our prayer.

To you all flesh will come
with its burden of sin.

Too heavy for us, our offences,
but you wipe them away.

Blessed is he whom you choose and call
to dwell in your courts.
We are filled with the blessings of your house,
of your holy temple.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Luke 24: 46-48

AND [JESUS] SAID to them, "So you see how it is written that the Christ would suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that, in his name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be preached to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses to this."

*Come now, let us talk this over,/ says the LORD:/
Though your sins are like scarlet,/ they shall be white
as snow;/ Though they are red as crimson,/ they shall
be like wool. (Is 1: 18)*

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

We must realise that our former selves have been crucified with [Christ] to destroy this sinful body and to free us from the slavery of sin. (Rm 6: 6)

INTERCESSIONS

Through the intercession of Padre Pio, let us pray:

R Forgive us, O Lord, that we may be healed!

For all believers in whom the Gospel witness burns only dimly: *R*

For all who fail to recognise and benefit from the power of the sacrament of penance: *R*

For all who persist in their sins: *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

*May rich recompense be made to you by the LORD, the
God of Israel, to whom you have come, to find shelter
beneath his wings. Amen. (cf. Rt 2: 12)*

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

SAINTS

OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

You know, O Lord, what is best.

BLESSED ANTHONY AND JOHN

Martyrs († 1529)

Anthony was born in Tizatlan, Mexico, around 1516 when the Gospel had not yet reached his native land. The son of a wealthy Mexican government official, Anthony was baptised into the Catholic faith at the Franciscan mission of Tlaxcala by one of the priests who had arrived following the 1521 Spanish Conquest. He proved to be an exceptionally devout convert. With Anthony at his baptism was another youth named John, a fellow convert to the Catholic faith who is thought to have been a servant of Anthony's family. Anthony and John both volunteered to accompany the Dominican priest Bernardino de Minaya in setting out on a dangerous missionary journey to the Mexican region of Oaxaca. Both Anthony and John suffered martyrdom for their faith, most probably in 1529. They, together with another youth, (Blessed) Christopher, are venerated as the earliest lay martyrs of the Americas.

*O my Jesus, who with a single word from the cross to
your heavenly Father have converted
so many obstinate sinners "who returned striking
their breasts," speak from the tabernacle a second
time that word which will be sufficient
to change sinful men, as they are,
into so many devoted and faithful followers of you.*
Saint Joseph Cafasso

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Our Lady of Walsingham

Prayer for the Morning

*In honour of Mary, the Mother of God,
let us give praise and thanks to the Lord!*

Glory be to the Father... Alleluia!

HYMN Metre: 88 88 88 88
Traditional melody Henri Friedrich Hemy
Words by John Lingard, based on the *Salve Regina*

Hail Queen of heav'n, the ocean star,
Guide of the wand'rer here below:
Thrown on life's surge, we claim thy care,
Save us from peril and from woe.
Mother of Christ, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the wanderer, pray for me.

O gentle, chaste, and spotless Maid,
We sinners make our prayers through thee;
Remind thy Son that he has paid
The price of our iniquity.
Virgin most pure, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the sinner, pray for me.

Sojourners in this vale of tears,
To thee, blest advocate, we cry;
Pity our sorrows, calm our fears,
And soothe with hope our misery.
Refuge in grief, Star of the Sea,
Pray for the mourner, pray for me.
And while to him who reigns above,
In Godhead One, in Persons Three,
The source of life, of grace, of love,
Homage we pay on bended knee;

Do thou, bright Queen, Star of the Sea,
Pray for thy children, pray for me.

PSALM 51

10-11

I am like a vine putting out graceful shoots,/ my blossoms bear the fruit of glory and wealth. (Si 24: 17)

One tradition holds that the tree of life in the garden of Eden was the olive tree. In the Mediterranean world of the Bible, its fruit provided food, and oil for light, heat, and healing. Mary bore the One who is the light of the world and the healing of the nations.

I am like a growing olive tree
in the house of God.

I trust in the goodness of God
for ever and ever.

I will thank you for evermore;
for this is your doing.

I will proclaim that your name is good,
in the presence of your friends.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Sirach 24: 12-14

I HAVE TAKEN ROOT in a privileged people,/ in the LORD's property, in his inheritance./ I have grown tall as a cedar on Lebanon,/ as a cypress on Mount Hermon;/ I have grown tall as a palm in Engedi,/ as the rose bushes of Jericho,/ as a fine olive in the plain,/ as a plane tree I have grown tall.

Every tree can be told by its own fruit.
(Lk 6: 44)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb (Lk 1: 42)

INTERCESSIONS

Brought to life by the fruit of Mary's womb, let us pray:

R. Give life, O Lord!

The Virgin Mary received your Word in faith and brought forth fruit in love:

– through her intercession, may your Church bear fruit that will last. *R.*

The Virgin Mary gave birth to your Son, our Saviour:

– through her intercession, bring your Church to full maturity in your kingdom. *R.*

The Virgin Mary is honoured as the Mother of God:

– through her intercession, gather children from every land into your family through the proclamation of the word and the celebration of the sacraments. *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O God, you give life to the world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the intercession of his mother, grant us the light and healing he brings, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

MASS

Friday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

OUR LADY OF WALSLINGHAM

Memorial

● In 1061, Lady Richeldis de Faverches was taken in spirit from Norfolk to Nazareth and asked by Our

Lady to build a replica of the Holy House of the Annunciation. The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham was a place of pilgrimage until it was destroyed at the Reformation. In the 19th century the Slipper Chapel nearby was restored and pilgrimage to Walsingham began once more. In 1934, the English Bishops named the Slipper Chapel the Roman Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady. ●

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Hail, holy Mother! The child to whom you gave birth is the King of heaven and earth for ever. (Sedulius)

OPENING PRAYER

Lord God,
give to your people the joy
of continual health in mind and body.
With the prayers of the Virgin Mary to help us,
guide us through the sorrows of this life
to eternal happiness in the life to come.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

● There is a time for every occupation under heaven. ●

A reading from
the Book of Ecclesiastes

3: 1-11

THERE IS a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven:/ A time for giving birth, a time for dying;/ a time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted./ A time for killing, a time for healing;/ a time for knocking down, a time for building./ A time for tears, a time for laughter;/ a time for mourning, a time for dancing./ A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them up;/ a time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing./ A time for searching, a time for

losing;/ a time for keeping, a time for throwing away./ A time for tearing, a time for sewing;/ a time for keeping silent, a time for speaking./ A time for loving, a time for hating;/ a time for war, a time for peace.

What does a man gain for the efforts that he makes? I contemplate the task that God gives mankind to labour at. All that he does is apt for its time; but though he has permitted man to consider time in its wholeness, man cannot comprehend the work of God from beginning to end.

This is the word of the Lord.

• PSALM 143 •

R (1) Blessed be the Lord, my rock.

Blessed be the LORD, my rock,

He is my love, my fortress;
he is my stronghold, my saviour,
my shield, my place of refuge. **R**

LORD, what is man, that you care for him;
mortal man, that you take keep him in mind;
man, who is merely a breath;
whose life fades like a passing shadow. **R**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Son of Man came to serve/ and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Alleluia!**

● *You are the Christ of God. The Son of Man is destined to suffer grievously.* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Luke** 9: 18-22

ONE DAY WHEN JESUS was praying alone in the presence of his disciples he put this question to them, "Who

do the crowds say I am?" And they answered, "John the Baptist; others Elijah; and others say one of the ancient prophets come back to life." "But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" It was Peter who spoke up. "The Christ of God," he said. But he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone anything about this.

"The Son of Man", he said, "is destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes and to be put to death, and to be raised up on the third day."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Father,
the birth of Christ your Son
deepened the virgin mother's love for you,
and increased her holiness.
May the humanity of Christ
give us courage in our weakness;
may it free us from our sins,
and make our offering acceptable.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary; she carried the Son of the eternal Father. (See Lk 11: 27)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
we rejoice in your sacraments and ask your mercy
as we honour the memory of the Virgin Mary.
May her faith and love
inspire us to serve you more faithfully
in the work of salvation.
Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

"Who do people say that I am?"

I ask, then, do you know the feeling of expecting a friend, expecting him to come, and he delays?... This is a state of mind, when our Lord and Saviour is its Object, not intelligible at first sight to the world, not easy to nature, yet of so ordinary fulfillment in the Church in all ages, as to become the sign of the Presence of him who is unseen, and to be a sort of note of the divinity of our religion. You know there are subtle instincts in the inferior animals, by which they apprehend the presence of things which man cannot discern, as atmospheric changes, or convulsions of the earth, or their natural enemies, whom yet they do not actually see; and we consider the uneasiness or the terror which they exhibit to be a proof that there is something near them which is the object of the feeling, and is the evidence of its own reality. Well, in some such way the continuous watching and waiting for Christ, which prophets, apostles, and the Church built upon them, have manifested, age after age, is a demonstration that the Object of it is not a dream or a fancy, but really exists; in other words, that he lives still, that he has ever lived, who was once upon earth, who died, who disappeared, who said he would come again.

For centuries before he came on earth, prophet after prophet was upon his high tower, looking out for him, through the thick night, and watching for the faintest glimmer of the dawn. "I will stand upon my watch," says one of them, "fix my feet upon the tower, and I will watch to see what will be said to me. For, as yet, the vision is far off, and it shall appear at the end, and shall not lie; if it make any delay, wait for it, for it shall surely come, and it shall not be

slack." Another prophet says, "O God, my God, to Thee do I watch at break of day. For Thee my soul hath thirsted in a desert land, where there is no way nor water."... And another, "O that Thou wouldst rend the heavens, and come down! – the mountains would melt away at Thy presence, they would melt, as at the burning of fire; the waters would burn with fire. From the beginning of the world the eye hath not seen, O God, besides Thee, what things Thou hast prepared for them that wait on Thee."

BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

Blessed John Henry Newman († 1890) established the Oratory in Birmingham, England, and was a preacher of great eloquence.

Prayer for the Evening

*By his wounds, we were healed:
let us give thanks and praise!*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is
now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: 87 87 D

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

Lord, whose love in humble service
Bore the weight of human need,
Who did on the Cross forsaken,
Show us mercy's perfect deed;
We, your servants, bring the worship
Not of voice alone but heart:
Consecrating to your purpose
Ev'ry gift which you impart.

Still your children wander homeless;
 Still the hungry cry for bread;
 Still the captives long for freedom;
 Still in grief we mourn our dead.
 As, O Lord, your deep compassion
 Healed the sick and freed the soul,
 Use the love your Spirit kindles
 Still to save and make us whole.

As we worship, grant us vision,
 Till your love's revealing light,
 Till the height and depth and greatness
 Dawns upon our human sight:
 Making known the needs and burdens
 Your compassion bids us bear,
 Stirring us to faithful service,
 Your abundant life to share.

PSALM 40

2-6, 8-14

Power came out of Jesus that cured them all. (cf. Lk 6: 19)

Human need of every kind cries out to God for healing. The sharpest cry is the plea of the human heart betrayed and wounded by the sin of self and others. The Lord hears every call for help and heals by taking upon himself the suffering of all who are impoverished and weakened by failure, sin, and death.

Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak.
 The Lord will save him in the day of evil,
 will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land
 and will not give him up to the will of his foes.
 The Lord will help him on his bed of pain,
 he will bring him back from sickness to health.

As for me, I said: "Lord, have mercy on me,
 heal my soul for I have sinned against you."

My foes are speaking evil against me.
 "How long before he dies and his name be forgotten?"

My enemies whisper together against me.
 They all weigh up the evil which is on me:
 "Some deadly thing has fastened upon him,
 he will not rise again from where he lies."
 Thus even my friend, in whom I trusted,
 who ate my bread, has turned against me.

But you, O Lord, have mercy on me.
 Let me rise once more and I will repay them.
 By this I shall know that you are my friend,
 if my foes do not shout in triumph over me.
 If you uphold me I shall be unharmed
 and set in your presence for evermore.

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel
 from age to age. Amen. Amen.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Isaiah 53: 4-5

OURS WERE THE SUFFERINGS he bore,/ ours the sorrows he carried./ But we, we thought of him as someone punished,/ struck by God and brought low./ Yet he was pierced through for our faults,/ crushed for our sins./ On him lies a punishment that brings us peace,/ and through his wounds we are healed.

*Lord, have mercy on me,
 heal my soul for I have sinned against you.*

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

Lord, you hear the prayer of the poor. (cf. Ps 9a: 17)

INTERCESSIONS

In the name of all who seek to heal the sufferings of the world, we pray:

R Hear us, O Lord.

You lifted upon your own shoulders the burdens of the poor and the weak:

– strengthen those who follow in your footsteps in caring for those in need. *R*

You bore the pain of the disbelief of your relatives and neighbours:

– strengthen those who encounter ridicule in their efforts to live the Gospel. *R*

You shunned no leper and turned away from no sinner:
– strengthen those who seek to grow in love for all who suffer. *R*

You died for all who live under the weight of mortality:
– raise to life all our beloved dead. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever! Amen.

MARIAN ANTIPHON (Text, page 23)

SAINTS

OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

Now indeed, I tread a path that is obscured by darkness. Yet with you, O divine Leader of mankind, I know that I am safe.

SAINTS ANDOCHIUS, THYRSUS, AND FELIX

Martyrs (3rd century)

Andochius, a priest of Smyrna (what is now Izmir, Turkey), was sent as a missionary to Gaul (France) with a fellow priest, Saint Benignus, the deacon Thyrsus, and the subdeacon Andeolus. They preached the Gospel near Autun, where they received hospitality from a Christian named Felix. Andochius, Thyrsus, and Felix were ultimately apprehended by the pagans and suffered martyrdom in Saulieu. The specific era in which they died cannot be established with any certainty, but they would have been victims of one of the persecutions under the Roman emperors. Traditionally Saint Benignus has been commemorated separately from the other three martyrs, having suffered for the faith on a different occasion.

SAINT RUSTICUS

Bishop (5th century)

Rusticus served as a priest of Clermont-Ferrand, France. In 423 he was consecrated bishop of this see. He is commemorated as a saint on September 24 in the 2004 edition of the *Roman Martyrology*.

*My Jesus, fling open that book of life in which are set down the deeds of every saint.
I want to perform them all for you!*

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Prayer for the Morning

Merciful is the Lord: come, let us sing praise!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: 76 76 D

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
O Sacred Head Surrounded*

Our Father, we have wandered
And hidden from your face;
In foolishness have squandered
Your legacy of grace.
But now, in exile dwelling,
We rise with fear and shame,
As distant but compelling,
We hear you call our name.

And now at length discerning
The evil that we do,
Behold us, Lord, returning
With hope and trust to you.
In haste you come to meet us
And home rejoicing bring,
In gladness there to greet us
With calf and robe and ring.

O Lord of all the living,
Both banished and restored,
Compassionate, forgiving
And ever caring Lord,

Grant now that our transgressing,
Our faithlessness may cease,
Stretch out your hand in blessing,
In pardon and in peace.

PSALM 37

2-11, 22-23

I know the plans I have in mind for you — it is the LORD who speaks — plans for peace, not disaster, reserving a future full of hope for you. (Jr 29: 11)

The penitential psalms very often speak of sin as sickness brought on by the attack of enemies. Their vivid descriptions of the sinner's suffering remind us again and again that the misery of sin is not what God wants for his beloved children.

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger;
do not punish me, Lord, in your rage.
Your arrows have sunk deep in me;
your hand has come down upon me.

Through your anger all my body is sick;
through my sin, there is no health in my limbs.
My guilt towers higher than my head;
it is a weight too heavy to bear.

My wounds are foul and festering,
the result of my own folly.
I am bowed and brought to my knees.
I go mourning all the day long.

All my frame burns with fever;
all my body is sick.
Spent and utterly crushed,
I cry aloud in anguish of heart.

O Lord, you know all my longing:
my groans are not hidden from you.
My heart throbs, my strength is spent;
the very light has gone from my eyes.

O Lord, do not forsake me!
 My God, do not stay afar off!
 Make haste and come to my help,
 O Lord, my God, my saviour!

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Isaiah 57: 18-19

I HAVE SEEN THE WAY/ he went.
 "But I will heal him, and console him,/ I will comfort him to the full,/ both him and his afflicted fellows,/ bringing praise to their lips.

"Peace, peace to far and near,/ I will indeed heal him," says the LORD.

I will heal their disloyalty,/ I will love them with all my heart. (Ho 14: 5)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (Text, back cover B)

I will restore you to health/ and heal your wounds – it is the LORD who speaks. (Jr 30: 17)

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the Divine Physician:

R Have mercy on us, Lord, for we have sinned.

Hold back the punishment we fear:

– grant us the healing for which we long. **R**

Lift from us the burden of our guilt:

– grant us the freedom we have sold for illusions of pleasure or power. **R**

Strengthen our longing for goodness:

– remove our foolish preferences for sinful rewards. **R**

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O God, our Healer and our Good, you sent your Son to cure the world's sickness by taking upon himself the burden of its guilt. Heal the diseased vision which causes us to mistake evil for good; heal the sickened mind which causes us to mistake selfishness for love; heal the unhealthy habits which we have made our own, that we may stand before you, whole in body, soul, and spirit, to sing your praise for ever with all the saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS

Saturday of the Twenty-Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Jesus warns, "The Son of Man is to be handed over into the power of men." In effect, the Lord says, "Remember your creator... before evil days come... before sun and light... grow dark." How do we do this? By following "the promptings of your heart and the desires of your eyes" which lead to the cross of Jesus Christ for which our heart was made.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

I am the Saviour of all people, says the Lord. Whatever their troubles, I will answer their cry, and I will always be their Lord.

OPENING PRAYER

Father,

guide us, as you guide creation
 according to your law of love.

May we love one another

and come to perfection

in the eternal life prepared for us.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, for ever and ever.

- Remember your creator in the days of your youth,
before the dust returns to the earth, and the breath to
God. ●

**A reading from
the Book of Ecclesiastes**

11: 9-12: 8

REJOICE, in your youth, you
who are young;/ let your
heart give you joy in your young days./ Follow the
promptings of your heart/ and the desires of your eyes./
But this you must know: for all these things God will
bring you to judgement./ Cast worry from your heart,/
shield your flesh from pain.

Yet youth, the age of dark hair, is vanity. And remem-
ber your creator in the days of your youth, before evil
days come and the years approach when you say, "These
give me no pleasure," before sun and light and moon
and stars grow dark, and the clouds return after the
rain;/ the day when those who keep the house tremble/
and strong men are bowed;/ when the women grind no
longer at the mill,/ because day is darkening at the win-
dows/ and the street doors are shut;/ when the sound of
the mill is faint,/ when the voice of the bird is silenced,/
and song notes are stilled,/ when to go uphill is an
ordeal/ and a walk is something to dread./ Yet the
almond tree is in flower,/ the grasshopper is heavy with
food/ and the caper bush bears its fruit,/ while man goes
to his everlasting home. And the mourners are already
walking to and fro in the street/ before the silver cord
has snapped,/ or the golden lamp been broken,/ or the
pitcher shattered at the spring,/ or the pulley cracked at
the well,/ or before the dust returns to the earth as it
once came from it, and the breath to God who gave it.

Vanity of vanities, the Preacher says. All is vanity.
This is the word of the Lord.

— • **PSALM 89** • —

R (1) O Lord, you have been our refuge from one
generation to the next.

You turn men back to dust,
and say, "Go back, sons of men."
To your eyes a thousand years
are like yesterday, come and gone,
no more than a watch in the night. **R**

You sweep men away like a dream,
like the grass which springs up in the morning.
In the morning it springs up and flowers:
by evening it withers and fades. **R**

Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
LORD, relent! Is your anger for ever?
Show pity to your servants. **R**

In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us:
give success to the work of our hands. **R**

Alleluia, alleluia! Our Saviour Christ Jesus abolished
death/ and he has proclaimed life through the Good
News. **Alleluia!**

- The Son of Man is going to be handed over. They
were afraid to ask him about what he had said. ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Luke**

9: 43b-45

AT A TIME WHEN everyone was
full of admiration for all he
did, Jesus said to his disciples, "For your part, you must

have these words constantly in your mind: The Son of Man is going to be handed over into the power of men." But they did not understand him when he said this; it was hidden from them so that they should not see the meaning of it, and they were afraid to ask him about what he had just said.
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
may these gifts which we now offer
to show our belief and our love
be pleasing to you.
May they become for us
the Eucharist of Jesus Christ your Son
who is Lord for ever and ever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the Good Shepherd, says the Lord; I know my sheep, and mine know me. (See Jn 10: 14)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
help us with your kindness.
Make us strong through the Eucharist.
May we put into action
the saving mystery we celebrate.
Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

One with the One to Be Handed Over

Our supernatural life is our natural life with Christ given to it, inseparable from Christ, as the divinity and humanity of Christ are inseparable in him, and as our souls and bodies in this life are inseparable from one another in us. Since Christ has given himself to

us, our lives have the redemptive quality of his, and our relationships with one another are a communion in him. They are a meeting and one-ing of Christ with Christ, an impact of unimaginable love, the never ceasing generation and increase of eternal love on earth, the fulfillment of Christ's words, "I came that they should have life and have it more abundantly." We live our Christ-life, offer our Christ to God, and give Christ to one another by the means that Christ used on earth: by natural means. We give him with our hands and eyes and ears, with the words we speak, the journeys we make, by our human friendships and human loves. It is even truer to say that to our eyes Christ has given his eyes, to our ears he has given his ears, to our words he has given his words, to our hands he has given his hands, to our pain he has given his pain, to our hearts he has given his heart. We see then through his eyes, listen with his ears, speak with his words, work with his hands, suffer with his suffering, rejoice with his joy, love with his heart. It stands to reason that if we surrender our will to God's will, we will make our lives the echo of our Lady's prayer, "Be it done to me according to Thy word" – that is to say, may Christ live in me the life he wants to live in me, where, with whom, and how he wants to live it. Christ in us attracts to us those whom we can truly love; he radiates from those in whom he abides. But he is not only the beauty of life but its strength; it is he who gives the restraint and the tenderness that are the security of passion. It is his strength in us which makes us able to accept responsibilities and to bear one another's burdens.

CARYLL HOUSELANDER

Caryll Houselander († 1954) was a British mystic, poet, and spiritual teacher.

Prayer for the Evening

Vigil of the Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*God is the giver of all good gifts:
come, give him thanks and praise!*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: 88 88 88

This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Eternal Father, Strong to Save

The rich man meant no hurt or harm;
He wore his purple, rich and warm,
And dined in comfort with no heed
For Lazarus, who died in need,
Of hunger and of bleeding sores
Before the rich man's very doors.

Still wounded Lazarus awaits,
A world in need before our gates.
And will we bar the door and feast
On hoarded wealth when these, the least
Cry out in pain where deafened ears
Refuse to hear or heed their tears?

Let us arise, the hour is late,
And open wide our bolted gate
To let the poor and suffering in,
Lest we discover that our sin
Lay not in any wrong we did
But in the good from which we hid.

For we must learn what Christ declared:
All gifts are given to be shared.
Where suff'ers are, he also is;

Whatever wounds we heal are his;
Whatever love we have denied
We have refused the Crucified.

PSALM 48

6-10, 13-15

I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me. (Mt 25: 45)

Treasure of every kind, material or not, is a gift from God, given to be shared and not hoarded. Trust in God rather than one's own stockpile of personal resources is the source of our salvation. Wickedness is not always overt: the neglect of simple kindness, great or small, kills as surely as open violence.

Why should I fear in evil days
the malice of the foes who surround me,
men who trust in their wealth,
and boast of the vastness of their riches?

For no man can buy his own ransom,
or pay a price to God for his life.
The ransom of his soul is beyond him.
He cannot buy life without end,
nor avoid coming to the grave.

In his riches, man lacks wisdom:
he is like the beasts that are destroyed.

This is the lot of those who trust in themselves,
who have others at their beck and call.
Like sheep they are driven to the grave,
where death shall be their shepherd
and the just shall become their rulers.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Jeremiah 5: 27b-29

THEY HAVE GROWN RICH and
powerful,/ fat and sleek./
Yes, in wickedness they go to any lengths,/ they have no

respect for rights,/ for orphans' rights, to support them;/ they do not uphold the cause of the poor./ And must I not punish them for such things – it is the LORD who speaks –/or from such a nation exact my vengeance?

*He who trusts in riches will have his fall,
the virtuous will flourish like the leaves. (Pr 11: 28)*

CANTICLE OF MARY (Text, back cover A)

Is there a poor man among you, one of your brothers, in any town of yours in the land that the LORD your God is giving you? Do not harden your heart or close your hand against that poor brother of yours. (Dt 15: 7)

INTERCESSIONS

Absorption in one's own interests causes the heart to grow hard and die. Let us pray for the gift of life for all our sisters and brothers:

R. Lord of life, grant life to all.

For those who are rich in this world's goods:
– that they may find blessing in generosity to the poor and hungry. *R.*

For those who are rich in the gifts of the mind:
– that they may find blessing in putting their abilities to work for the common good. *R.*

For those who are rich in the gifts of the heart:
– that they may find blessing by loving those who are unlovable and unloved. *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

May Christ live in our hearts through faith, planted in love and built on love. Amen. (cf. Ep 3: 17)

MARIAN ANTIPHON (Text, page 23)

SAINTS

OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

*O Mary, my Mother, obtain for me an ardent love for
the Most Holy Sacrament.*

BLESSED JOSEPH STANEK

Priest, Religious, and Martyr (1916-1944)

A native of Poland, Joseph Stanek entered the Pallottine congregation in 1935 at the age of eighteen. In the autumn of 1939, the Nazis invaded Poland, subjecting this largely Catholic country to the aggression of a regime that in pursuance of its evil agenda sought to destroy the Catholic Church. It was during the Nazi occupation that Joseph was ordained to the priesthood at the age of twenty-four, courageously risking his life to receive the sacrament of holy orders at a time when priests were in grave danger from the Nazis. Less than three and a half years later, Father Stanek was arrested by the Nazis, who hung him in Warsaw, Poland on September 23, 1944, at the age of twenty-seven. In 1992, the cause for beatifying Father Stanek and one hundred and seven other martyrs of Poland who had suffered for their faith during World War II was introduced in response to their popular reputation for holiness and the many favours attributed to their intercession. They were beatified in June of 1999.

*The purifying of the soul by the punishment
of purgatory is nothing else than the expiation of the
guilt that hinders it from obtaining glory.*

Saint Thomas Aquinas

■ Suggested Prayer of the Faithful ■

(Each local community should compose its own Universal Prayer, but may find inspiration in the texts proposed here.)

The Father has sent us his Son so that we might know the way of righteousness and follow it with all our heart. Calling on the mercy of the Father, we turn to him now with our intercessions:

That God will bring about in the Church many new vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and that the Lord will bless and guide the work of all vocation directors.

For those in public office: that they will secure justice for the oppressed and safeguard the freedom of all.

For the reverence and protection of human life, from natural birth to natural death.

For the homeless and the destitute in our society: that they may be loved and provided for according to Christ's own heart.

For the sick and the suffering: that God who gives life to all things will share his life with those who are most afflicted.

For the grace this week to pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness.

Loving Father, you dwell in unapproachable light. Grant us the grace to compete well for the faith and to lay hold of eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prayer for the Morning

Come, let us give thanks to God for all his gifts to us!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: CM

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

We sinned each day we passed you by
And did not bind your wound,
To this one's pain and that one's cry
Remaining unattuned.

So doing to the very least,
We did, O Lord, to you;
For, like the Levite and the priest,
We had so much to do.

We left you lying there for dead,
Abandoned and unhealed;
In your unheeded cry for bread
Is selfishness revealed!

PSALM 9b

1-6, 14, 17-18

If a man who was rich enough in this world's goods saw that one of his brothers was in need, but closed his heart to him, how could the love of God be living in him? (1 Jn 3: 17)

The poor are all those who stand in need of our love, our time, our interest, our concern. Our wealth is not necessarily our money. It is whatever good God has done for us and given to us.

Lord, why do you stand afar off
and hide yourself in times of distress?
The poor man is devoured by the pride of the wicked:
he is caught in the schemes that others have made.

For the wicked man boasts of his heart's desires;
the covetous blasphemes and spurns the Lord.
In his pride the wicked says: "He will not punish.
There is no God." Such are his thoughts.

His path is ever untroubled;
your judgement is far from his mind.
His enemies he regards with contempt.
He thinks: "Never shall I falter:
misfortune shall never be my lot."

But you have seen the trouble and sorrow,
you note it, you take it in hand.
The helpless trusts himself to you;
for you are the helper of the orphan.

Lord, you hear the prayer of the poor;
you strengthen their hearts; you turn your ear
to protect the rights of the orphan and oppressed
so that mortal man may strike terror no more.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

1 Timothy 6: 17-19

WARN THOSE WHO ARE RICH
in this world's goods that
they are not to look down on other people; and not to
set their hopes on money, which is untrustworthy, but
on God who, out of his riches, gives us all that we need
for our happiness. Tell them that they are to do good,
and be rich in good works, to be generous and willing to

share – this is the way they can save up a good capital
sum for the future if they want to make sure of the only
life that is real.

*Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Sion/ and to those
who feel so safe on the mountain of Samaria. (Am 6: 1)*

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

In the day of wrath riches will be of no advantage, / but virtuous con-
duct delivers from death. (Pr 11: 4)

INTERCESSIONS

Many are the needs of those around us; few are our
resources; great is the generosity of God, and so we
pray:

R. Lord, you hear the prayer of the poor!

For those who go to bed hungry:
– that they may be fed by those who have more food
than they need. *R.*

For those who suffer the diseases of poverty:
– that they may find help from those who suffer the
diseases of affluence. *R.*

For those who are neglected:
– that they may find care from those who are loved. *R.*

For those who have died:
– that they may be raised to eternal life. *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O God, you loved the world so much that you gave your
only-begotten Son for our salvation. Grant that we who
have received such a gift from you may withhold from
those in need no gift that lies within our power to give,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Perhaps the most scandalous thing about the parable of the rich man is that the sore-ridden beggar “lying at his door” was not some anonymous, faceless stranger, for the first one to speak the name of the “poor man” – “Lazarus” – was the rich man! “Woe to those ensconced so snugly in Sion,” for their complacency not only deprives the poor of what they need – it goes so far as to deny their very humanity, their personal dignity. To steer clear of this temptation, we pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. The King of kings and Lord of lords dwells in unapproachable light – a light that he shares with us so that we will approach the poor who dwell with us.

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O Lord, you had just cause to judge men as you did: because we sinned against you and disobeyed your will. But now show us your greatness of heart, and treat us with your unbounded kindness. (Dn 3: 31, 29, 30, 43, 42)

GLORIA

— page 450

OPENING PRAYER

Father,
you show your almighty power
in your mercy and forgiveness.
Continue to fill us with your gifts of love.
Help us to hurry toward the eternal life you promise
and come to share in the joys of your kingdom.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

ALTERNATIVE OPENING PRAYER

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
in your unbounded mercy
you have revealed the beauty of your power
through your constant forgiveness of our sins.

May the power of this love be in our hearts
to bring your pardon and your kingdom to all we meet.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

● Those who sprawl and those who bawl will be exiled. ●

A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Amos

6: 1a, 4-7

THE ALMIGHTY LORD SAYS THIS:
/ Woe to those ensconced so
snugly in Sion/ and to those who feel so safe on the
mountain of Samaria./ Lying on ivory beds/ and sprawl-
ing on their divans,/ they dine on lambs from the flock,/
and stall-fattened veal;/ they bawl to the sound of the
harp,/ they invent new instruments of music like
David,/ They drink wine by the bowlful,/ and use the
finest oil for anointing themselves,/ but about the ruin
of Joseph they do not care at all./ That is why they will
be the first to be exiled;/ the sprawlers' revelry is over.
This is the word of the Lord.

— • PSALM 145. —

R (1b) My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Or: Alleluia.

It is the LORD who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
The LORD, who sets prisoners free, **R**

It is the LORD who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
The LORD, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R**

It is the LORD who loves the just
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.
 The LORD will reign for ever;
 Zion's God, from age to age. *R.*

● *Do all that you have been told until the Appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ.* ●

**A reading from
 the first Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy** 6: 11-16

AS A MAN DEDICATED TO GOD, you must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called when you made your profession and spoke up for the truth in front of many witnesses. Now, before God the source of all life and before Christ, who spoke up as a witness for the truth in front of Pontius Pilate, I put to you the duty of doing all that you have been told, with no faults or failures, until the Appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who at the due time will be revealed by God, the blessed and only Ruler of all, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, who alone is immortal, whose home is in inaccessible light, whom no man has seen and no man is able to see: to him be honour and everlasting power. Amen. This is the word of the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice, says the Lord, I know them and they follow me. **Alleluia!**

● *Good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony.* ●

**A reading from
 the holy Gospel according to Luke** 16: 19-31

JESUS SAID TO THE PHARISEES: "There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there lay a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even came and licked his sores. Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his bosom. So he cried out, 'Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.' 'My son,' Abraham replied, 'remember that during your life good things came your way, just as bad things came the way of Lazarus. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all: between us and you a great gulf has been fixed, to stop anyone, if he wanted to, crossing from our side to yours, and to stop any crossing from your side to ours.' The rich man replied, 'Father, I beg you then to send Lazarus to my father's house, since I have five brothers, to give them warning so that they do not come to this place of torment too.' 'They have Moses and the prophets,' said Abraham, 'let them listen to them.' 'Ah no, father Abraham,' said the rich man, 'but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent.' Then Abraham said to him, 'If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

CREDO ————— page 452

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

God of mercy,
accept our offering
and make it a source of blessing for us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

PREFACE OF SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME ————— page 455

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

O Lord, remember the words you spoke to me, your servant,
which made me live in hope and consoled me when I was
downcast. (Ps 118: 49-50)

Or:

This is how we know what love is: Christ gave up his life
for us; and we too must give up our lives for our brothers.
(1 Jn 3: 16)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may this Eucharist
in which we proclaim the death of Christ
bring us salvation
and make us one with him in glory,
for he is Lord for ever and ever.

• ————— •
D A Y B Y D A Y
• ————— •

Lazarus – The Unknown Friend

Sometimes those of us who have more power,
more money, more time, or more knowledge bend
down to those who have less power, less knowledge,
or less wealth; there is a movement from the "super-
ior" to the "inferior." When people are generous they
are in control. You can imagine someone in the street
falling down and your going to help that person to

get up. Then something happens. As you listen to
that person you become friends. Perhaps you dis-
cover that he or she is living in squalor and has little
money. You are not just being generous, you are
entering into a relationship which will change your
life. You are no longer in control. You have become
vulnerable; you have come to love that person. You
have listened to her story. You have been touched by
that incredible, beautiful person who has lived some-
thing incredibly difficult. You are no longer in control,
you are no longer just the generous one; you have
become vulnerable. You have become a friend.

There is a very moving text in the Gospel of Luke.
Jesus says when you give a meal don't invite the
members of your family, your friends, or rich neigh-
bours. When you give a really good meal, a banquet,
invite the poor, the disabled, and the blind and you
will be blessed (Lk 14). In biblical language to give a
meal, or to be at a meal, is to become a friend. It is to
enter into a covenant relationship. So Jesus is asking
us to come up from behind the walls of our group
and open our hearts to those who have been
marginalised because of their poverty, because of
their handicaps, and become their friend. In the heart
of Christ there is a yearning to bring people together
to meet as friends. To make that move from gen-
erosity to communion of hearts will imply a new way
of living. It will imply a transformation, because we
will have lost power.

JEAN VANIER

*Jean Vanier is the founder of l'Arche, an international net-
work of communities for the mentally disabled.*

Prayer for the Evening

God is our great desire: come, let us seek his face.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: SM

Blest are the pure in heart,
For they shall see our God;
The secret of the Lord is theirs,
Their soul is Christ's abode.

The Lord who left the heav'ns
Our life and peace to bring,
To dwell in lowliness with men,
Their pattern and their king.

Still to the lowly soul
He does himself impart,
And for his dwelling and his throne
Chooses the pure in heart.

We seek your presence, Lord;
This grace to us impart:
Make us a temple fit for you,
A pure and lowly heart.

PSALM 23

1-6

Avoid all that. You must aim to be saintly and religious, filled with faith and love, patient and gentle. (1 Tm 6: 11)

Taking Paul's exhortation to heart, let us avoid the pursuit of the kind of selfish hoarding against which the Gospel warns, and let us instead put our energy into pursuing these worthier goals.

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,
the world and all its peoples.
It is he who set it on the seas;
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?
Who shall stand in his holy place?
The man with clean hands and pure heart,
who desires not worthless things,
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbour.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord
and reward from the God who saves him.
Such are the men who seek him,
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

2 Timothy 2: 21-22

NOW, TO AVOID THESE FAULTS
that I am speaking about is
the way for anyone to become a vessel for special occasions, fit for the Master himself to use, and kept ready for any good work. Instead of giving in to your impulses like a young man, fasten your attention on holiness, faith, love and peace, in union with all those who call on the Lord with pure minds.

*What the Spirit brings is: love, joy, peace, patience,
kindness, goodness, trustfulness.*

(Ga 5: 22)

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

Fight the good fight of the faith and win for yourself the eternal life to which you were called. (1 Tm 6: 12)

INTERCESSIONS

To live in and for Christ is a goal worth the devotion of our lives. Let us pray:

R. Make us holy in your sight, O Lord.

Free us from all worthless pursuits:

– that we may seek your kingdom first. *R.*

Cleanse us of all destructive desires:

– that we may seek the true good of all. *R.*

Purify our hearts of useless clutter and distractions:

– that we may always seek your face. *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

May the Lord rescue us from all evil attempts on us, and bring us safely to his heavenly kingdom. Amen.
(cf. 2 Tm 4: 18)

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Saint Vincent de Paul

Prayer for the Morning

*The Lord hears the cry of the poor:
let us go into his presence and pray.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: LM

This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

With glowing light sent from above,
O Vincent, how you guide our way!
Your virtues and example pure
Show us the path to heaven's day.

Amidst the graces of your life
Your charity sheds brightest fire:
How many of the poor it fed,
Filled many hearts with Christ's desire.

Urged on by zeal and charity,
You preached in town and countryside,
Proclaiming all God's mysteries
To poor and rich, both far and wide.

PSALM 111

1, 4-6, 9

He who looks down on his neighbour sins,/ blessed is he who takes pity on the poor. (Pr 14: 21)

Saint Vincent was a man of many talents, but he is remembered especially as the great apostle to the poor.

Happy the man who fears the Lord,
who takes delight in all his commands.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,
he conducts his affairs with honour.
The just man will never waver:
he will be remembered for ever.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;
his justice stands firm for ever.
His head will be raised in glory.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Matthew 6: 19-21

DO NOT STORE UP treasures
for yourselves on earth,
where moths and woodworms destroy them and thieves
can break in and steal. But store up treasures for your-
selves in heaven, where neither moth nor woodworms
destroy them and thieves cannot break in and steal. For
where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

*The man who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, he
will repay him for what he has done.*

(Pr 19: 17)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

Jesus said, "If you wish to be perfect, go and sell what you own and
give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven;
then come, follow me." (Mt 19: 21)

INTERCESSIONS

Through the intercession of Saint Vincent de Paul, let us
pray:

R Lord, hear the cry of the poor!

For those who follow in Saint Vincent's footsteps in
caring for the poor:

– may God repay their good deeds. **R**

For those who use their goods and gifts wisely in service
of their neighbours:

– may God store up for them treasure in heaven. **R**

For those who are destitute, hungry, and homeless:

– may God send compassionate and creative men and
women to assist them. **R**

Personal intentions

Our Father...

God of mercy, you sent your only-begotten Son to
preach the Gospel to the poor. Continue to inspire your
people with a love for all those in need; bless the work of
those who serve those in want; and grant relief to those
who suffer the lack of food, shelter, and clothing. We ask
this in the name of Christ the Lord. Amen.

MASS

Monday of the Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL

Memorial

● Saint Vincent de Paul was born in Gascony in 1581.
After completing his studies, he was ordained a priest
and went to Paris where he served in a parish. He
founded the Congregation of the Mission to supervise
the formation of priests and to give support to the poor.
With the help of Saint Louise de Marillac, he also
founded the Congregation of the Daughters of Charity.
He died in Paris in 1660. ●

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The Spirit of God is upon me; he has anointed me. He sent me to bring good news to the poor, and to heal the broken-hearted. (Lk 4: 18)

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
you gave Vincent de Paul
the courage and holiness of an apostle
for the well-being of the poor
and the formation of the clergy.
Help us to be zealous in continuing his work.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

● *The Lord gave, the Lord has taken back. Blessed be the name of the Lord!* ●

A reading from
the Book of Job

1: 6-22

ONE DAY, the Sons of God came to attend on the LORD, and among them was Satan. So the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you been?" "Round the earth," he answered, "roaming about." So the LORD asked him, "Did you notice my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth: a sound and honest man who fears God and shuns evil." "Yes," Satan said "but Job is not God-fearing for nothing, is he? Have you not put a wall round him and his house and all his domain? You have blessed all he undertakes, and his flocks throng the countryside. But stretch out your hand and lay a finger on his possessions: I warrant you, he will curse you to your face." "Very well," the LORD said to Satan, "all he has

is in your power. But keep your hands off his person." So Satan left the presence of the LORD.

On the day when Job's sons and daughters were at their meal and drinking wine at their eldest brother's house, a messenger came to Job. "Your oxen," he said, "were at the plough, with the donkeys grazing at their side, when the Sabaeans swept down on them and carried them off. Your servants they put to the sword: I alone escaped to tell you." He had not finished speaking when another messenger arrived. "The fire of God," he said, "has fallen from the heavens and burnt up all your sheep, and your shepherds too: I alone escaped to tell you." He had not finished speaking when another messenger arrived. "The Chaldeans," he said, "three bands of them, have raided your camels and made off with them. Your servants they put to the sword: I alone escaped to tell you." He had not finished speaking when another messenger arrived. "Your sons and daughters" he said, "were at their meal and drinking wine at their eldest brother's house, when suddenly from the wilderness a gale sprang up, and it battered all four corners of the house which fell in on the young people. They are dead: I alone escaped to tell you." Job rose and tore his gown and shaved his head. Then falling to the ground he worshipped and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb, / naked shall I shall return. / The LORD gave, the LORD has taken back. / Blessed be the name of the LORD!"

In all this misfortune Job committed no sin nor offered any insult to God.
This is the word of the Lord.

• PSALM 16 •

R (6) Turn your ear to me, O Lord; hear my words.

LORD, hear a cause that is just,

pay heed to my cry;

Turn your ear to my prayer;

no deceit is on my lips. **R**

From you may my judgement come forth.

Your eyes discern the truth.

You search my heart, you visit me by night.

You test me and you find in me no wrong. **R**

I am here and I call, you will hear me, O God.

Turn your ear to me; hear my words.

Display your great love, you whose right hand saves
your friends from those who rebel against them. **R**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Son of Man came to serve/ and to
give his life as a ransom for many. **Alleluia!**

● *The least among you, that is the one who is great.* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Luke** 9: 46-50

AN ARGUMENT started between the disciples about which of them was the greatest. Jesus knew what thoughts were going through their minds, and he took a little child and set him by his side and then said to them, "Anyone who welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. For the least among you all, that is the one who is great."

John spoke up. "Master," he said, "we saw a man casting out devils in your name, and because he is not with us we tried to stop him." But Jesus said to him, "You

must not stop him: anyone who is not against you is for you."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,

you helped Saint Vincent

to imitate the love he celebrated in these mysteries.

By the power of this sacrifice

may we also become an acceptable gift to you.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Give praise to the Lord for his kindness, for his wonderful deeds toward men. He has filled the hungry with good things, he has satisfied the thirsty. (Ps 106: 8-9)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,

hear the prayers

of those you have renewed with your sacraments
from heaven.

May the example and prayers of Saint Vincent

help us to imitate your Son

in preaching the good news to the poor.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY*Greatness in Being Least*

Our soul can never be at peace in these worldly things, because they are all less than we are. They have been made for us, not we for them. And we have been made for God, so that we may experience his supreme eternal good. Only God, then, can satisfy us. In him we are at peace, and in him we find rest, because there is nothing we can desire or want that

we do not find in God. Once we have found it, we cannot fail to find in God the goodness that knows how to gift us and the wisdom that knows how to do it. We have proof of this, for not only has he gifted us when we've asked, but he gifted us even before we existed. Without our ever asking, he created us in his own image and likeness. And he created us anew to grace in the blood of his Son. So our soul is at peace in him and in no one or nothing else. It is he who is supreme wealth, supreme wisdom, supreme goodness, and supreme beauty. He is such an unimaginable good that no one but he himself can measure or fully appreciate how good and great and delightful he is – so much so that he knows how to satisfy and fulfill the holy desires of those who are willing to strip themselves of the world and clothe themselves in him – and he can do it and wants to do it.

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

Saint Catherine of Siena († 1380), Doctor of the Church, was a Dominican, stigmatist, and papal counsellor.

Prayer for the Evening

*God does not forget his people:
let us give him thanks and praise!*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: LM

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Again We Keep This Solemn Fast*

Thou, Lord of life, our saving health,
Who mak'st thy suff'ring ones our care,
Our gifts are still our truest wealth,
To serve thee our sincerest prayer.

As on the river's rising tide
Flow strength and coolness from the sea,
So through the ways our hands provide
May quick'ning life flow in from thee,

To heal the wound, to still the pain,
And strength to failing pulses bring,
Till the lame feet shall leap again,
And the parched lips with gladness sing.

PSALM 9

5, 8-13

It was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him. (Jm 2: 5)

God does not forget the cry of the poor. Christ sends disciples like Saint Vincent and all his followers to defend the widow and orphan, the poor and oppressed, and to raise them up to the dignity which is rightfully theirs as children of God.

You upheld the justice of my cause;
you sat enthroned, judging with justice.

But the Lord sits enthroned for ever.
He has set up his throne for judgement;
he will judge the world with justice,
he will judge the peoples with his truth.

For the oppressed let the Lord be a stronghold,
a stronghold in times of distress.
Those who know your name will trust you:
you will never forsake those who seek you.

Sing psalms to the Lord who dwells in Sion.
Proclaim his mighty works among the peoples;
for the Avenger of blood has remembered them,
has not forgotten the cry of the poor.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Matthew 25: 34-36

COME, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me.

*When men were dying,
I it was who had their blessing. (Jb 29: 13)*

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me. (Mt 25: 40)

INTERCESSIONS

All Christians are called to the work of prayer for those in need. Let us pray:

℟ Arise, Lord, lift up your hand!

For the helpless and those who defend them: ℟

For the hungry and those who give or prepare food for them: ℟

For the lonely and those who visit them: ℟

For the oppressed and those who work for their liberation: ℟

Personal intentions

Our Father...

May the Lord deliver us from all evil and bring us to life everlasting! Amen.

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

SAINTS

OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

I hope for your salvation, O Lord.

BLESSED JEAN-BAPTISTE LABORIER DU VIVIER

Deacon and Martyr (1734-1794)

Jean-Baptiste Laborier du Vivier served as a deacon at the cathedral of Macon, France. On November 29, 1791, the Jacobin regime of the French Revolution ordered all French priests to take the oath of the "Civil Constitution of the Clergy," an edict of the revolutionary regime demanding that bishops be appointed by the votes of the local clergy rather than by the authority of the papacy. In August of 1792 the Jacobins threatened to imprison or deport to French Guiana all priests refusing to take this oath. Jean-Baptiste, although a deacon, was also pressed to take the oath, but refused. He was arrested and brought to Rochefort, where he was put aboard a docked fleet of prison ships with over eight hundred priests and religious refusing the oath. Falling ill from the squalid conditions on the ships, he died on September 26 or 27, 1794, at the age of sixty.

Only God has brought in with the grace of the sacrament, that men are so supplied and made humble in heart, that they will willingly go show themselves their own sins to the priest, whom God has there appointed in his stead... and humbly submit themselves to such pain and penance as their confessor shall assign them.

Saint Thomas More

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

Saint Wenceslaus; Saint Lawrence Ruiz
and his companions

Prayer for the Morning

*God gives life to all that lives:
come, let us return thanks and praise!*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!*

HYMN

Metre: 88 88 88

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

Untended and unloved, the earth
Would ravel into tangled void,
But God who drew its filaments
From waste is ceaselessly employed
In spinning frames of time and space
Around our fragile dwelling place.

As days and seasons weave their web
Of warmth and cold, of wet and dry,
The cattle forage for their feed,
And overhead the sparrows fly
Where God keeps count of every one
Whose span is measured by the sun.

The wheel of time entwines the strands
Of death and life we think to be
Our loss and gain, and makes of them
One single thread: eternity.
The lilies of the field know best:
Where God provides, let spindles rest.

PSALM 103

1, 14-18, 33-34, 35b

So do not worry; do not say, "What are we to eat? What are we to drink? How are we to be clothed?" (Mt 6: 31)

God did not create the world only to abandon it to its own devices. He cares day by day for all that he has made, though we do not always recognise his hand at work.

Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are!

You make the grass grow for the cattle
and the plants to serve man's needs,
that he may bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer man's heart;
oil, to make his face shine
and bread to strengthen man's heart.

The trees of the Lord drink their fill,
the cedars he planted on Lebanon;
there the birds build their nests:
on the tree-top the stork has her home.
The goats find a home on the mountains
and rabbits hide in the rocks.

I will sing to the Lord all my life,
make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him.
I find my joy in the Lord.
Bless the Lord, my soul.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Matthew 6: 26-30

LOOK AT THE BIRDS in the sky. They do not sow or reap or gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they are? Can any of

you, for all his worrying, add one single cubit to his span of life? And why worry about clothing? Think of the flowers growing in the fields; they never have to work or spin; yet I assure you that not even Solomon in all his regalia was robed like one of these. Now if that is how God clothes the grass in the field which is there today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, will he not much more look after you, you men of little faith?

Surely life means more than food, and the body more than clothing! (Mt 6: 25)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (Text, back cover B)
Your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. (cf. Mt 6: 32)

INTERCESSIONS

With trust in the love our heavenly Father has for us, we pray:

R You are our life, O Lord!

You care for all the works of your hands:
– teach us to help and not to hinder your loving providence. *R*

You feed and clothe all your children:
– forgive us the greediness that seeks to deprive others for our own benefit. *R*

You provide for all the earth:
– grant us the wisdom to see and to serve your purposes. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

Loving Father, you desire to feed, clothe, and shelter all your children. Forgive the sin which seeks to feed, to dress, and to live at the expense of those in need; grant the generosity which seeks to care for all that you have given, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MASS

Tuesday of the Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

SAINT WENCESLAUS

Optional memorial

● Saint Wenceslaus was born in Bohemia around the year 907. Brought up as a Christian by his grandmother, he began his reign around the year 925. Having experienced many difficulties in ruling over his subjects and in leading them to the faith, he was betrayed by his brother Boleslaus and killed by assassins in 935. He was immediately recognised as a martyr and is venerated as the patron saint of Bohemia. ●

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

This holy man fought to the death for the law of his God, never cowed by the threats of the wicked; his house was built on solid rock.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord,
you taught your martyr Wenceslaus to prefer the kingdom of heaven to all that the earth has to offer. May his prayers free us from our self-seeking and help us to serve you with all our hearts. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

● Why give light to a man of grief? ●

A reading from the Book of Job

3: 1-3, 11-17, 20-23

JOB BROKE THE SILENCE and cursed the day of his birth. This is what he said:

May the day perish when I was born,/ and the night that told of a boy conceived.

Why did I not die new-born,/ not perish as I left the womb?/ Why were there two knees to receive me,/ two breasts for me to suck?/

Had there not been, I should now be lying in peace,/ wrapped in a restful slumber,/ with the kings and high viziers of earth/ who build themselves vast vaults,/ or with princes who have gold and to spare/ and houses crammed with silver.

Or put away like a still-born child that never came to be,/ like unborn babes that never see the light./ Down there, bad men bustle no more,/ there the weary rest.

Why give light to a man of grief?/ Why give life to those bitter of heart,/ who long for a death that never comes,/ and hunt for it more than for a buried treasure?/ They would be glad to see the grave-mound/ and shout with joy if they reached the tomb.

Why make this gift of light to a man who does not see his way,/ whom God baulks on every side? This is the word of the Lord.

• PSALM 87 •

R (3) Let my prayer come into your presence, O Lord.

LORD my God, I call for help by day;

I cry at night before you.

Let my prayer come into your presence.

O turn your ear to my cry. **R**

For my soul is filled with evils;
my life is on the brink of the grave.

I am reckoned as one in the tomb:

I have reached the end of my strength. **R**

Like one alone among the dead;
like the slain lying in their graves;
like those you remember no more,
cut off, as they are, from your hand. **R**

You have laid me in the depths of the tomb,
in places that are dark, in the depths.

Your anger weighs down upon me:

I am drowned beneath your waves. **R**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Son of Man came to serve/ and to give his life as a ransom for many. **Alleluia!**

• Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem. •

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

9: 51-56

AS THE TIME DREW NEAR for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely took the road for Jerusalem and sent messengers ahead of him. These set out, and they went into a Samaritan village to make preparations for him, but the people would not receive him because he was making for Jerusalem. Seeing this, the disciples James and John said, 'Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to burn them up?' But he turned and rebuked them, and they went off to another village. This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,

bless our offerings and make them holy.

May these gifts fill our hearts
with the love which gave Saint Wenceslaus victory
over all his suffering.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

If anyone wishes to come after me, he must renounce himself,
take up his cross, and follow me, says the Lord. (Mt 16: 24)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
may the mysteries we receive
give us the spiritual courage which made your martyr
Wenceslaus
faithful in your service and victorious in his suffering.
Grant this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

How to Join Jesus on his Journey

The future will be what we make it; let us reflect on this thought so that it may motivate us to act. Especially, let us realize that all collective reform must first be individual reform. Let us work at transforming ourselves and our lives. Let us influence those around us, not by useless preaching, but by the irresistible power of our spirituality and the example of our lives.

Let us give ourselves generously and try to strengthen our faith and expand our understanding, confident that all will come to us to be rekindled and to enlighten their hearts and minds.

The world is unable to recognize spiritual reality; it does not know how to penetrate the outer covering that veils our inmost self. Any unconquerable strength, purity, and truth in us is seen in our depths only by him who lives in us and judges us with more justice and love than men and women. What a reason to be faithful and courageous in daily life!

Nothing goes unnoticed by our eternal Guest; the least of our actions has a profound effect on others.

Let us love. Let our lives be a perpetual song of love for God, first of all, and for all human beings who suffer, love, and mourn. Let deep joy live in us. Let us be like the lark, enemy of the night, who always announces the dawn and awakens in each creature the love of light and life. Let us awaken others to the spiritual life.

Why do we put off doing the good until tomorrow? Why do we wait to be wealthy before giving? Is not the gift of ourselves better than money, and is there any time when we could not offer a tear or a smile to someone who is suffering? Cannot a word from us strengthen someone in distress? Cannot an act of pure love coming from our depths brighten a sad life?

ELISABETH LESEUR

Elisabeth Leseur († 1914) was a French married laywoman whose cause for canonisation is underway.

Prayer for the Evening

*God speaks of peace:
come, let us give thanks and praise!*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: LM

Remember, Lord, thy works of old,
The wonders that our fathers told;
Remember not our sin's dark stain;
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Whom shall we trust but thee, O Lord?
Where rest but on thy faithful Word?
None ever called on thee in vain,
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

Where saints and angels dwell above
All hearts are knit in holy love;
O bind us in that heavenly chain;
Give peace, O God, give peace again!

PSALM 84

2-4, 7-14

The Lord of heaven favour you, and grant you his grace and peace.
(cf. Tb 7: 11)

In the Word made flesh in the incarnation, God's mercy and human faithfulness become one Saviour, Christ, who is our peace. In him are all people knit together into one Body.

O Lord, you once favoured your land
and revived the fortunes of Jacob,
you forgave the guilt of your people
and covered all their sins.

You averted all your rage,
you calmed the heat of your anger.

Will you not restore again our life
that your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace,
peace for his people and his friends
and those who turn to him in their hearts.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land.

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven.

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Isaiah 45: 8

SEND VICTORY LIKE A DEW, you
heavens,/ and let the clouds
rain it down./ Let the earth open for salvation to spring
up./ Let deliverance, too, bud forth/ which I, the LORD,
shall create.

God lowered the heavens and came down.
(Ps 17: 10)

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

For I mean to spread peace everywhere; the vine will give its fruit,
the earth its increase, and heaven its dew. (Zc 8: 12)

INTERCESSIONS

Let us pray to the God of our salvation:

R Give peace, O Lord.

You forgave the guilt of your people:
– make all one in the love of Christ. **R**

You spoke the final Word of salvation in the incarnation:
– make all holy by the dying and rising of Christ. **R**

You revealed your faithfulness through the longed-for Messiah:

– make us servants of your justice and peace for all who wait for you. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

To you all, who are God's beloved, may God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send grace and peace. Amen. (cf. Rm 1: 7)

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

SAINTS

OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY

O Saviour, who have shed the last drop of your blood for me, I throw myself down at your feet and pray for pardon.

**BLESSED MICHAEL ICHINOSE SUKIZAYEMON,
JOHN MUTSUNOO CHOZABURO,
AND PETER SAWAGUCHI KUHYOYE**
Martyrs († 1630)

In 1614 Japan's pagan shogun ruler Iyeyasu issued an edict ordering all foreign missionaries to depart. The priests who thereafter remained in Japan or entered the country risked their lives to do so. Michael Ichinose Sukizayemon, a native Japanese member of the Augustinian Hermits' Third Order, assisted the Augustinian priests in their dangerous labours. On September 28, 1630, Michael was beheaded in Nagasaki for having given lodging to the missionaries. Five other Third Order Augustinians died with him, including John Mutsunoo Chozaburo, a lay catechist who had assisted the Mexican-born Augustinian priest and future martyr (Blessed) Bartholomew Gutierrez. Another of the martyrs, Peter Sawaguchi Kuhyoye, who had taken the name Peter of the Mother of God, was like Michael condemned to death for having sheltered the missionaries.

*Bring up your children well for God,
and God will settle their future a hundred thousand
times better than you can do it.*

Blessed Charles de Foucauld

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

Saint Michael, Saint Gabriel, and Saint Raphael

Prayer for the Morning

Let us praise God above all for ever!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Metre: LM

O Lord, the angels' sheer delight!
Their life reflects your splendour bright;
As we today their praise declare,
May we their joy forever share.

Saint Michael, be our refuge here,
Preserve us from all useless fear;
Through you may God his peace bestow
On all the nations here below.

Saint Gabriel, be with us this day,
Reveal God's will to us, we pray;
As Mary once did answer you,
May our response be firm and true.

Saint Raphael, heal our sinful heart,
May God his grace to us impart,
And may you guide us on the way
That we may never go astray. Amen.

PSALM 102

19-22

You walk on the wings of the wind,/ you make the winds your messengers/ and flashing fire your servants. (cf. Ps 103: 3-4)

The great archangels – Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael – lead the choirs of those awesome servants of God whom we picture as “wings of the wind” and “flashes of fire” and to whom we give the name “angel”, meaning “messenger”.

The Lord has set his sway in heaven and his kingdom is ruling over all. Give thanks to the Lord, all his angels, mighty in power, fulfilling his word, who heed the voice of his word.

Give thanks to the Lord, all his hosts, his servants who do his will. Give thanks to the Lord, all his works, in every place where he rules. My soul, give thanks to the Lord!

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Isaiah 6: 1-3

I SAW THE LORD seated on a high throne; his train filled the sanctuary; above him stood seraphs, each one with six wings: two to cover its face, two to cover its feet and two for flying.

And they cried out one to another in this way, “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Sabaoth. His glory fills the whole earth.”

Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Sabaoth
(Is 6: 3)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

Heavens, rejoice with him,/ let the sons of God pay him homage! (Dt 32: 43)

INTERCESSIONS

To God who is enthroned upon the seraphim, we pray:

R We give you thanks and praise!

Through the power of Michael, leader of the heavenly armies in the war against evil:

– protect your people, Lord! *R*

Through the word of Gabriel, message-bearer of the Gospel:

– save your people, Lord! *R*

Through the intervention of Raphael, companion and healer:

– comfort your people, Lord! *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O God, in your great wisdom you have given to your angels and to your people each their proper tasks. Grant us their protection, who serve ever in your presence, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

MASS

Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael

It is on the anniversary of the dedication of a basilica in honour of Saint Michael in the northeastern part of Rome, during the fifth century, that we celebrate the feast of the Holy Angels. "Their splendour shows us your greatness, which surpasses in goodness the whole of creation" (Preface).

Scripture mentions but briefly the archangels Michael and Gabriel, and speaks of Raphael only in the Book of Tobit. In the

New Testament, Gabriel is the messenger who announces the birth of John the Baptist and that of Jesus, while Michael appears at the head of the heavenly hosts, the conqueror of Satan in the great battle of the endtime (First Reading from Revelation). From the paradise of Genesis to that of Revelation, however, the angels fill the entire span of the history of salvation with their invisible presence. They are the Lord's "angels" or messengers (Entrance Antiphon), revealing his designs and carrying out his commands. Above all, they sing his praises (Communion Antiphon), an immense host of adorers seen by Daniel and John around the throne of the living God: "A thousand thousand waited on him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him (First Reading from Daniel).

Earth's liturgy joins us to that of the angels in heaven. Not only do we "make their hymn of praise our own" (Preface), proclaiming that the Lord is holy, but in offering the sacrifice we ask God "that your angel may take this sacrifice to your altar in heaven" (Eucharistic Prayer I).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Bless the Lord, all you his angels, mighty in power, you obey his word and heed the sound of his voice. (Ps 102: 20)

GLORIA

— page 450

OPENING PRAYER

God our Father,
in a wonderful way you guide the work of angels and men.
May those who serve you constantly in heaven
keep our lives safe from all harm on earth.
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

● *A thousand thousand waited on him.* ●

**A reading from
the Book of the Prophet Daniel**

7: 9-10, 13-14

AS I WATCHED:/ Thrones were
set in place/ and one of
great age took his seat./ His robe was white as snow,/ the
hair of his head as pure as wool./ His throne was a blaze
of flames,/ its wheels were a burning fire./ A stream of
fire poured out/ issuing from his presence./ A thousand
thousand waited on him,/ ten thousand times ten thou-
sand stood before him.

A court was held/ and the books were opened./ I
gazed into the visions of the night.

And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven,/ one like
a son of man./ He came to the one of great age/ and was
led into his presence./ On him was conferred sovereign-
ty, glory, and kingship,/ and men of all peoples, nations
and languages became his servants./ His sovereignty is
an eternal sovereignty/ which shall never pass away,/
nor will his empire ever be destroyed.
This is the word of the Lord.

Or:

● *Michael and his angels attacked the dragon.* ●

**A reading from
the Book of Revelation**

12: 7-12ab

NOW WAR BROKE OUT in
heaven, when Michael
with his angels attacked the dragon. The dragon
fought back with his angels, but they were defeated
and driven out of heaven. The great dragon, the
primeval serpent, known as the devil or Satan, who
had deceived all the world, was hurled down to the
earth and his angels were hurled down with him. Then

I heard a voice shout from heaven, "Victory and power
and empire for ever have been won by our God, and
all authority for his Christ, now that the persecutor,
who accused our brothers day and night before our
God, has been brought down. They have triumphed
over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the witness
of their martyrdom, because even in the face of death
they would not cling to life. Let the heavens rejoice
and all who live there."

This is the word of the Lord.

— **PSALM 137.** —

R. (1) In the presence of the angels I will bless you,
O Lord.

I thank you, LORD, with all my heart:
you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

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.**

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the LORD's ways:
"How great is the glory of the LORD." **R.**

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the LORD, all his hosts,
his servants who do his will. **Alleluia!**

● *You will see the angels of God ascending and
descending above the Son of Man.* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to John** 1: 47-51

WHEN JESUS SAW NATHANAEAL coming he said of him, "There is an Israelite who deserves the name, incapable of deceit." "How do you know me?" said Nathanael. "Before Philip came to call you," said Jesus "I saw you under the fig tree." Nathanael answered, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God, you are the King of Israel." Jesus replied, "You believe that just because I said: I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that." And then he added, "I tell you most solemnly, you will see heaven laid open and, above the Son of Man, the angels of God ascending and descending." This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
by the ministry of your angels
let our sacrifice of praise come before you.
May it be pleasing to you and helpful to our own salvation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

PREFACE OF THE ANGELS

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God,
we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.
In praising your faithful angels and archangels,
we also praise your glory,
for in honouring them, we honour you, their creator.
Their splendour shows us your greatness,
which surpasses in goodness the whole of creation.
Through Christ our Lord
the great army of angels rejoices in your glory.
In adoration and joy
we make their hymn of praise our own: Holy...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

In the sight of the angels I will sing your praise, my God.
(Ps 137: 1)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
hear the prayers of those you renew with the bread of life.
Made strong by the courage it gives,
and under the watchful care of the angels,
may we advance along the way of salvation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

Honouring the Archangels

The angels show forth God's greatness and perfection. "Each symbolises individually some attribute or other of that infinite Being. In some we see his power, in others his love, in others his strength. Each is a reproduction of some beauty of the divine Original; each adores him and glorifies him in the perfection it portrays." It is God, then, whom we honour in the angels. They are like mirrors reflecting the perfections of their infinite Creator. Raised to the supernatural order, they share in the life of God; and victorious in trial, they enjoy the beatific vision: "Their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven."

If we consider their relations with Jesus Christ, it may not appear absolutely certain that they hold their grace from him; but this much does appear with certainty, that in heaven they unite themselves with him, the Mediator of all religion, in order to adore, praise, and glorify the majesty of the Most High. It is their bliss to add in this wise a greater worth to their worship: "Through whom the angels praise, the dominations adore and the powers hold in awe your

majesty." Hence, when we unite ourselves to Jesus Christ to adore God we join at the same time with the angels and saints in a heavenly harmony which renders the praise of the Godhead still more perfect. We can well make our own the words of Father Olier: "May all the angelic host, the mighty powers that move the spheres of heaven, forever pour forth in Jesus Christ whatever be wanting to our song of praise. May they forever thank you, Lord, for all those gifts both of nature and of grace which from the goodness of your hand we all receive."

FATHER ADOLPHE TANQUEREY, S.S.

Father Adolphe Tanquerey († 1932) was a Sulpician priest and theologian who was born in France. His work *The Spiritual Life: A Treatise on Ascetic and Mystical Theology* is considered a classic.

Prayer for the Evening

In the presence of the angels
let us praise our God!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
All Creatures of Our God and King

Metre: LM

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain, Alleluia!
Cry out, dominions, principedoms, powers,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

O friends, in gladness let us sing
Supernal anthems echoing,
Alleluia, Alleluia

To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

PSALM 137

1-5

The angel who was talking to me then said to me, "Make this proclamation: the LORD Sabaoth says this: I feel most jealous love for Jerusalem and Sion." (Zc 1: 14)

In whatever form they appear, the great angels of God bear the message of God's faithfulness and love for his people and proclaim the glory of his saving power.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.
I will adore before your holy temple.

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.

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
"How great is the glory of the Lord!"

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

Isaiah 63: 9

IT WAS NEITHER MESSENGER nor angel/ but his Presence that saved them./ In his love and pity/ he redeemed them himself,/ he lifted them up, carried them,/ throughout the days of old.

Blessed be God for ever!

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

Suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest heaven,/ and peace to men who enjoy his favour." (Lk 2: 13-14)

INTERCESSIONS

To the One who reigns above the angels yet stoops down to hear the prayers of earth, let us pray:

R. With the angels, we sing your praise!

You are all-holy and all-loving: *R.*

You send your messengers to bear the tidings of salvation: *R.*

You will to gather your people into your glory with all the angels: *R.*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

May mercy, peace, and love be ours in abundance. Amen.
(cf. Jude 2)

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Saint Jerome

Prayer for the Morning

*The word of the Lord endures for ever:
let us give thanks and praise!*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: 77 77

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
Saviour of the Nations, Come*

Word of life, most pure and strong,
Lo! for thee the nations long,
Spread, till from its dreary night
All the world awakes to light.

Up! the ripening fields you see,
Mighty shall the harvest be;
But the reapers still are few,
Great the work they have to do.

Lord of harvest, let there be
Joy and strength to work for thee,
Till the nations, far and near,
See thy light, and learn thy fear.

PSALM 118

105-112

Now I know you are a man of God and the word of the LORD in your mouth is truth itself. (cf. 1 K 17: 24)

Saint Jerome lived intensely by the light of God's word through study, prayer, and the painstaking work of translating it into the vernacular, which was Latin at the time, and writing commentaries on it.

Your word is a lamp for my steps
and a light for my path.
I have sworn and have made up my mind
to obey your decrees.

Lord, I am deeply afflicted:
by your word give me life.
Accept, Lord, the homage of my lips
and teach me your decrees.

Though I carry my life in my hands,
I remember your law.
Though the wicked try to ensnare me
I do not stray from your precepts.

Your will is my heritage for ever,
the joy of my heart.
I set myself to carry out your statutes
in fullness, for ever.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

2 Timothy 3: 14-17

YOU MUST KEEP to what you
have been taught and know
to be true; remember who your teachers were, and how,
ever since you were a child, you have known the holy
scriptures – from these you can learn the wisdom that
leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All
scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used
for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives
and teaching them to be holy. This is how the man who
is dedicated to God becomes fully equipped and ready
for any good work.

Now I will make my words/ a fire in your mouth.
(Jr 5: 14b)

CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH

(Text, back cover B)

Jesus replied: "If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my
Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home
with him." (cf. Jn 14: 23)

INTERCESSIONS

God speaks his word to all peoples. In gratitude, let us
pray:

R Speak, Lord, your servants are listening!

For all students and teachers of your word:
– fill them with the spirit of wisdom and under-
standing. *R*

For all translators of your word:
– grant them patience and perseverance at their difficult
task. *R*

For all who pray your word:
– fill us with love for you and for the gift of the
Scriptures. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

O God, you illumined Saint Jerome with love for your
word and for the task of proclaiming it to others. Shine
on your people's path that we may walk always in the
light of your word toward your heavenly kingdom,
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and
reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever
and ever. Amen.

MASS

Thursday of the Twenty-Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

SAINT JEROME

Memorial

● *Saint Jerome was born in Stridon, Dalmatia, around the year 340. He studied the classical authors in Rome, and was baptised there. He embraced a life of asceticism and went to the East where he was ordained a priest. Returning to Rome, he became a secretary to Pope Damasus. In Rome he began to translate the holy Scriptures into Latin and to promote the monastic life. Eventually he settled in Bethlehem where he served the needs of the Church. He wrote many works, especially commentaries on holy Scripture. He died in Bethlehem in 420.* ●

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

The book of the law must be ever on your lips; reflect on it night and day. Observe and do all that it commands: then you will direct your life with understanding. (Jos 1: 8)

OPENING PRAYER

Father,
you gave Saint Jerome delight
in his study of holy Scripture.
May your people find in your word
the food of salvation and the fountain of life.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

● *I know that my Avenger lives.* ●

A reading from
the Book of Job

19: 21-27

JOB SAID: / Pity me, pity me,
you, my friends, / for the hand

of God has struck me! / Why do you hound me down
like God, / will you never have enough of my flesh?

Ah, would that my words were written down, /
inscribed in some monument / with iron chisel and
engraving tool, / cut into the rock forever. / This I know:
that my Avenger lives, / and he, the Last, will take his
stand on earth. / After my awakening, he will set me close
to him, / and from my flesh I shall look on God. / He
whom I shall see will take my part: / these eyes will gaze
on him and find him not aloof.
This is the word of the Lord.

• PSALM 26 •

R (13) I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness in the
land of the living.

O LORD, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer.

Of you my heart has spoken: "Seek his face." **R**

It is your face, O LORD, that I seek;
hide not your face.

Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. **R**

I am sure I shall see the LORD's goodness
in the land of the living.

Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.

Hope in the LORD. **R**

Alleluia, alleluia! The Kingdom of God is at hand, /
repent and believe the Good News. **Alleluia!**

● *Your peace will rest on him.* ●

**A reading from
the holy Gospel according to Luke**

10: 1-12

THE LORD APPOINTED seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, 'The kingdom of God is very near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not make you welcome, go out into its streets and say, 'We wipe off the very dust of your town that clings to our feet, and leave it with you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is very near.' I tell you, on that day it will not go as hard with Sodom as with that town." This is the Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Lord,
help us to follow the example of Saint Jerome.
In reflecting on your word
may we better prepare ourselves
to offer you this sacrifice of salvation.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

When I discovered your teaching, I devoured it. Your words brought me joy and gladness; you have called me your own, O Lord my God. (Jr 15: 16)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord,
let this holy Eucharist we receive
on the feast of Saint Jerome
stir up the hearts of all who believe in you.
By studying your sacred teachings,
may we understand the Gospel we follow
and come to eternal life.
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

MEDITATION OF THE DAY

*Ascending the Highways
with the Seventy-Two*

"Happy the man whose strength you are!" Truly, do we long for your tabernacles, and your courts, and your house, but to attain our hearts' desire is not within our power; it does not depend upon our strength, but upon your help. "Their hearts are set upon the pilgrimage." Who have set their hearts upon pilgrimage? The blessed who find their strength in the Lord; they are the ones who determine to ascend step by step. Day by day, the saint reaches out for the better things before him, unmindful of what is past. That is, in fact, why in the Psalter there are fifteen gradual canticles, and the first song of ascent begins with the words: "In my distress I call to the Lord, and he answered me"; the second with: "I lift up my eyes toward the mountains; whence shall help come to me?"; the third: "I rejoiced because they said to me." The saint is always moving forward, advancing.

cing steadily and ascending to heights ever more sublime; that is the meaning of "their hearts are set upon the pilgrimage." Happy the man who makes progress daily, who does not weigh what he did yesterday, but makes his resolution for today and keeps it. The holy man sets his heart on ascending; the sinner, on descending. Just as the saintly man progresses day by day, the sinner regresses day by day. Happy the man who wholeheartedly ascends the highway.

SAINT JEROME

Saint Jerome († 420) was a hermit, papal secretary, and Scripture scholar.

Prayer for the Evening

*God's word is our glory:
let us give him thanks and praise!*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Alleluia!

HYMN

Metre: 76 76 D

*This hymn can be sung to the tune used for
The Church's One Foundation*

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth, unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky,
We praise you for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.

PSALM 17

29-33

The city did not need the sun or the moon for light, since it was lit by the radiant glory of God and the Lamb was a lighted torch for it. (Rv 21: 23)

Saint Jerome saw and loved Christ in the word of God. He said, "Whoever is ignorant of the Scriptures is ignorant of Christ."

You, O Lord, are my lamp,
my God who lightens my darkness.
With you I can break through any barrier,
with my God I can scale any wall.

As for God, his ways are perfect;
the word of the Lord, purest gold.
He indeed is the shield
of all who make him their refuge.

For who is God but the Lord?
Who is a rock but our God?
The God who girds me with strength
and makes the path safe before me.

Glory be to the Father...

Word of God

John 1: 1, 14

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word,/ and the Word was with God,/ and the Word was God.

The Word was made flesh,/ he lived among us,/ and we saw his glory,/ the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,/ full of grace and truth.

*God's word has made its home
in you.*

(1 Jn 2: 14)

CANTICLE OF MARY

(Text, back cover A)

Remember your leaders, who preached the word of God to you, and as you reflect on the outcome of their lives, imitate their faith. (He 13: 7)

INTERCESSIONS

To the living Word of God we pray:

R Lead us; guide us.

Your word is the light of the Church:

– let us read and meditate that we may see the way. *R*

Your word is bread for the hungry:

– let us seek its nourishment that we may find strength to walk in your way. *R*

Your word is refreshment and peace:

– let us rest in it that we may one day rest for ever in you. *R*

Personal intentions

Our Father...

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with our spirit.
Amen. (cf. Phm 25)*

MARIAN ANTIPHON

(Text, page 23)

SAINTS**OF TODAY AND YESTERDAY**

*Let us test and examine our ways,
and return to the Lord!*

SAINT MICHAEL DE AOZARAZA

Priest, Religious, and Martyr (1598-1637)

Michael de Aozaraza, of Ozate, Spain, entered the Dominican Order and became a priest. He served for a time as a professor of philosophy at the Dominicans' friary in Madrid before leaving for the missions in the Philippines. In 1636, after having laboured for a year on the northern Philippine island of Luzon, he went to Japan, where the harshly persecuted Catholic population lacked priests. Over two decades earlier, all foreign missionaries had been ordered to depart. Priests who entered Japan thereafter did so in peril of their lives. Soon after his arrival, Father Michael was captured by the regime of the pagan ruler Tokugawa Yemitsu. He was condemned to a horrific death by "gallows and hole", in which the victim was hung upside down and gradually suffocated within a sealed hole in the ground. He and several other martyrs had begun to undergo this agonising form of execution on September 29, 1637, when the magistrate charged with carrying out their death sentence, eager to leave, decided to have them quickly beheaded.

*Let the dwelling-place of our hearts be cleansed from
sin, and filled with virtue; closed to the devil,
and open to Christ.
Saint Augustine*