

The Living Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

16 October 2022

First Reading Ex 17:8-13

As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage.

The Amalekites came and attacked Israel at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, 'Pick out men for yourself, and tomorrow morning march out to engage Amalek. I, meanwhile, will stand on the hilltop, the staff of God in my hand.' Joshua did as Moses told him and marched out to engage Amalek, while Moses and Aaron and Hur went up to the top of the hill. As long as Moses kept his arms raised, Israel had the advantage; when he let his arms fall, the advantage went to Amalek. But Moses arms grew heavy, so they took a stone and put it under him and on this he sat, Aaron and Hur supporting his arms, one on one side, one on the other; and his arms remained firm till sunset. With the edge of the sword Joshua cut down Amalek and his people.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 120. R. v.2

*(R.) Our help is from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.*

1. I lift up my eyes to the mountains:
from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord
who made heaven and earth. (R.)
2. May he never allow you to stumble!
Let him sleep not, your guard.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers,
Israel's guard. (R.)
3. The Lord is your guard and your shade;
at your right side he stands.
By day the sun shall not smite you
nor the moon in the night. (R.)
4. The Lord will guard you from evil,
he will guard your soul.
The Lord will guard your going and
coming
both now and for ever. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Tm 3:14-4:2

This is how the people of God become equipped and ready for every good work.

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.

Before God and before Christ Jesus who is to be judge of the living and the dead, I put this duty to you, in the name of his Appearing and of his kingdom: proclaim the message and, welcome or unwelcome, insist on it. Refute falsehood, correct error, call to obedience – but do all with patience and with the intention of teaching.

Gospel Acclamation Heb 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The word of God is living and active;
it probes the thoughts and motives
of our heart.*

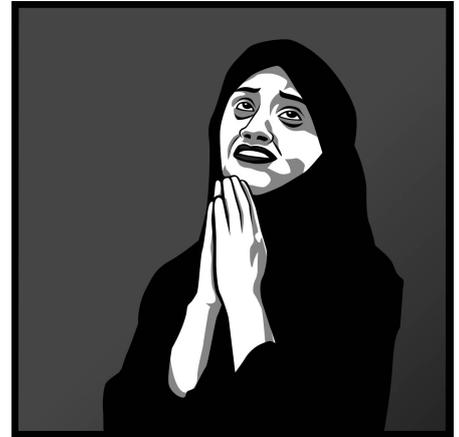
Alleluia!

Gospel Lk 18:1-8

God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about the need to pray continually and never lose heart. 'There was a judge in a certain town' he said 'who had neither fear of God nor respect for man. In the same town there was a widow who kept on coming to him and saying, "I want justice from you against my enemy!" For a long time he refused, but at last he said to himself, "Maybe I have neither fear of God nor respect for man, but since she keeps pestering me I must give this widow her just rights, or she will persist in coming and worry me to death."'

And the Lord said, 'You notice what the unjust judge has to say? Now will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? I promise you, he will see justice done to them, and done speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?'



Reflection by Fr Michael Tate

The judge in this story only gives in to the distraught widow when she threatens 'to give him a black eye' (in the Greek)! Jesus is *not* saying God is like the judge who needs to be battered into submission. Jesus *is* saying we need to pray like that widow.

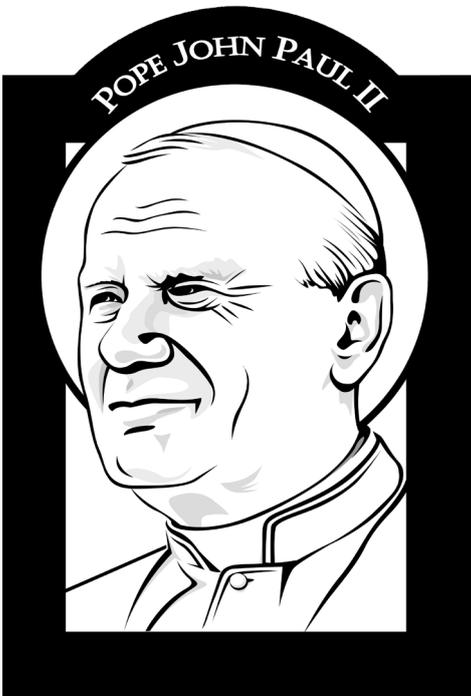
Think of what widows in Syria or Iraq are praying for tonight. Then think of one's own prayer. God is not the slightest bit interested in my usual trivial, self-promoting prayers. But He is interested in my being such a woeful pray-er and wants to change me.

Recall an incident of really urgent, intense prayer. Most likely, it was to do with a traumatic accident or fatal disease of a baby, of a spouse, of a parent too young. Apply that intense urgency to those in the world crying out: 'give us this day our daily bread'. In short, pray The Lord's Prayer with meaning.

We could pause for a moment to pray to live out the consequences of the 'Our Father' lest we are threatened with a black eye!

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Pope Saint John Paul II was born Karol Józef Wojtyła in 1920 in the Polish town of Wadowice. Growing up, he was keen on swimming and skiing, and at university he developed an interest in theatre and poetry. After his father's death in 1941, he decided to join the priesthood and studied at the seminary while Poland was under occupation by the Nazis. He was ordained a priest in 1946 and was appointed the Auxiliary Bishop of Kraków in 1958, and later took part in Vatican II. Following the sudden death of Pope John Paul I, he was elected Pope in 1978, becoming the first non-Italian pope since 1523. He was the second longest serving pope in modern history and travelled the world extensively, visiting 129 countries during his pontificate. John Paul II is widely credited with helping to bring down Communism in Europe and he made many efforts to improve relations between the church and other faiths including Islam and Judaism.

Cross out all letters that appear three times or more. Then unscramble the remaining letters to complete the name of the popular prayer below.

H T G O C E J W
 S A P Q G K I T
 F O E A S B Q O
 K L T J T E U B
 E B C F U J C E
 Q G M E Y B W U
 U F S O C P Q S
 O R P K W E J T

The _ _ _ _ _

Crossword



Across

- 2: someone who passes judgement
- 3: keep safe from harm
- 6: selected
- 9: speak to God
- 10: worried
- 12: to be afraid of something is to have _ _ _ _

Down

- 1: rush
- 4: bent, not straight
- 5: to lend a hand
- 7: a person whose husband or wife has died
- 8: a tale
- 11: to look after something or someone

