



OPENING PRAYER

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Father God, thank you for this time with you. May the Holy Spirit be upon me, that I may receive wisdom from your Word, be open to Your holy Will and give glory to You always. Through Christ our Lord, Amen
Our Father + Hail Mary + Glory Be

LECTIO DIVINA

Invite the Holy Spirit - Read - Reflect - Respond in Prayer - Rest in Silence

Gospel: John 6:60-69

Many of Jesus' disciples who were listening said, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them, "Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him. And he said, "For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by my Father." As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him. Jesus then said to the Twelve, "Do you also want to leave?" Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

In the Bread of Life discourse, Jesus began by feeding the crowd. He then fled from them when they wanted to make Him king. Jesus taught the people to seek food that would bring eternal life. He proclaimed that He is the Bread of Life and it is He they should seek, as he is the true food and true drink that promises resurrection and life eternal. What is Jesus asking of them now?

Reading I : Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers. When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people: "If it does not please you to serve the LORD, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." But the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD for the service of other gods. For it was the LORD, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery. He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

Crisis can refer to a critical moment when a choice is made and decisive action must be taken. We can experience this in our relationship with God. Joshua is at the end of his life, and he has accomplished all he needed to do. What does Joshua remind the people of their relationship with God? Why was it important for Joshua to make a bold decision on behalf of his family before the Lord? How do sacraments mirror our assent in our relationship with God?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II: Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

Brothers and sisters: Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. *For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

Ephesians appeals to the most fundamental, intimate human relationship - marriage - to explain the bond between Christ and the Church. What is this marriage based on? The care we apply to ourselves can be applied to spouses. Should there be a distinction between caring for spouse and caring of self?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY 25 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY 26 WEEKDAY

TUESDAY 27 SAINT MONICA, MEMORIAL

WEDNESDAY 28 SAINT AGUSTINE, BISHOP AND DOCTOR, MEMORIAL

THURSDAY 29 THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST, MEMORIAL

FRIDAY 30 WEEKDAY

SATURDAY 31 WEEKDAY

reflect

Do I always seek God's ways in my life and in my decisions?

pray

Father God, may the decisions I make always point towards You, Through Christ our Lord, Amen

live

Consider mutual subordination to the needs of others.