



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: Mark 8:27-35

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly. Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do." He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."

Jesus' words in today's Gospel test his disciples' commitment. If Jesus is the Christ - God's anointed - then following him at a distance is not an option. What can you expect when you decide to follow Jesus? What does losing one's life for the Gospel mean? How can our actions reflect our faith in Christ?

Reading I: Isaiah 50:5-9a

The Lord GOD opens my ear that I may hear; and I have not rebelled, have not turned back. I gave my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who plucked my beard; my face I did not shield from buffets and spitting.

The Lord GOD is my help, therefore I am not disgraced; I have set my face like flint, knowing that I shall not be put to shame. He is near who upholds my right; if anyone wishes to oppose me, let us appear together. Who disputes my right? Let that man confront me. See, the Lord GOD is my help; who will prove me wrong?

We hear of the close relationship that God has with his servant - the servant's ears are opened! Yet having ears open and remaining loyal to God can lead to great suffering. The servant endures with God's help. How does suffering strengthen one's resolve to remain loyal? Can you recall a situation where you were able to stand bold and courageous in the midst of suffering? To what can you attribute this to?

Notes

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

Reading II: James 2:14-18

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well, " but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

Indeed someone might say, "You have faith and I have works." Demonstrate your faith to me without works, and I will demonstrate my faith to you from my works.

St. James poses a series of questions to his audience. What difference does our faith in God make? Do our actions match our faith? In your own life, how do your actions make Christ present in the world?

Feast days this week

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15 TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY 16 SAINTS CORNELIUS, POPE, AND CYPRIAN, BISHOP, MARTYRS; MEMORIAL

TUESDAY 17 WEEKDAY

WEDNESDAY 18 WEEKDAY

THURSDAY 19 WEEKDAY

FRIDAY 20 SAINTS ANDREW KIM TAE-GON AND PAUL CHONG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS; MARTYRS

SATURDAY 21 SAINT MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

reflect

Do my mind and actions
line up with God's will
or am I a follower of the
world?

pray

Father God, as you give
and transform me, help me
to give to
transform others,
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen

live

Accept conflict and
suffering as a disciple
of Christ, knowing that
our devotion to Jesus
leads to salvation.