



Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 16, 2020

Observe what is right, do what is just; for my salvation is about to come, my justice, about to be revealed.

WHY PRAY?

The “foreigners” as Isaiah calls them, the “Gentiles” as Paul calls them, or the “Canaanites” as Matthew calls them are called to worship the one true God in prayer. As we listen to today’s readings, perhaps we are tempted to ask: Why pray? The question is rhetorical; it is tantamount to asking why should friends talk to one another or people in love kiss one another. Prayer is a way of relating to God, a way of talking to God. The apostles had the opportunity to talk to Jesus in the flesh. We have the opportunity to talk to Jesus Christ in prayer. Our relationship with him must be enthusiastic; it cannot be faint-hearted. John Donne, a fifteenth-century poet, knew what the qualities of good prayer were. Donne asks God to treat him differently from most Christians. The poet does not want God to merely “knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend,” but also to “break, blow, burn, and make me new” (*Holy Sonnets*, XIV).

It takes a dynamic faith on our part to come to God in prayer. As Jesus once said, “Knock and the door will be opened to you” (Matthew 7:7). It may take pounding the door down, but if we are as persistent as the woman in today’s Gospel, the results will follow.

GRATITUDE

O Thou who has given us so much,
mercifully grant us one thing more—a
grateful heart.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the LORD: “Stand firm in justice; do what is right” (Isaiah 56:1, 6-7).

Psalms — O God, let all the nations praise you! (Psalm 67).

Second Reading — The gifts and the calling of God are unable to be revoked (Romans 11:13-15, 29-32).

Gospel — Recognizing the Canaanite woman’s great faith, Jesus told her, “It shall be done as you wish” (Matthew 15:21-28).

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

In recent weeks, we have looked at the evolution of how Roman Catholics initiate children into the life of the Church. How did customs evolve in the Eastern Church? At one time, Christians in both East and West preferred to celebrate baptism in a community setting, with large numbers of adults and children initiated at Easter. The two branches of Christianity began to split on the proper time to do this.

In the East, water was blessed in abundance on the feast of the Epiphany, which marked, among other things, the baptism of the Lord. Once infant baptism was fixed on that day, local customs marking a birth began to evolve. One celebration was the giving of a name on the eighth day, another was the “purification” of the mother on the fortieth day after birth. In that blessing, re-enacting Mary and Joseph’s journey to the temple, the priest took the baby in his arms and placed the child before the altar. Just as Simeon received the child Jesus, so the priest received the new Christian while chanting Simeon’s prayer. Later, normally on Epiphany, the priest would baptize, chrismate (confirm), and give a few drops of the Precious Blood to the child in a joyous celebration of the whole community.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ez 24:15-24; Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10; Dt 32:26-28, 30, 35cd-36ab; Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: Ez 36:23-28; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ez 37:1-14; Ps 107:2-9; Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14; Mt 23:1-12
Sunday: Is 22:19-23; Ps 138:1-3, 6, 8; Rom 11:33-36; Mt 16:13-20

On Thursday, August 27th,
Father Anthony Onyekwe will
celebrate Mass at 11:30 am,
commemorating his 25th Anniversary
in the priesthood.
Due to Covid 19, we will postpone any
celebrations until we all can be
together to share in a meal.

Aug 23rd ,2020

LECTOR Peggy

WEEKLY OFFERING

Aug 9th

BUDGET \$1351.00

\$1660..00

B&M

\$ 100.00

Remember In Prayer

Michaëlle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello ,
Emanuel Milligan, Leonard Humble ,
Martha Jo Neuenschwander ,
Judy Hendricks , Ann and James Ferebee