

July 25th, 2010 Nineth Sunday After Pentecost, Stand with Africa

Introduction to the Day

Persistence in prayer evoked the admiration of Jesus. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus the Lord—is to be rooted in prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own.

After a moment of silent meditation to prepare ourselves for worship, we will begin the liturgy.

Prayers of the People

Gathered together as God's people in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, keep your church rooted in Christ. Through your word and sacraments make us instruments of your Spirit to call others to life in Christ.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide the leaders of nations by your Spirit of wisdom. Help them avoid the influence of those who seek only their own glory. Empower all leaders to place first the needs of those who have little or nothing.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear the persistent cries of those in great need: those facing crisis, those who despair, those with serious illness, and those who face death. Respond to them with your unfailing mercy and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless the ministries of local communities that serve people facing financial difficulty. Show your favor to organizations that provide food, clothing, shelter, and assistance for other basic necessities to those in need.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bring comfort, relief and joy to your children in Africa. Feed the hungry, heal the sick, and sustain all families broken by death or separation.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide those who serve in governments throughout the world. Give them wisdom to administer justice and to strive for peace, especially in the African nations of Algeria, Angola, Congo, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Uganda, Somalia, Sudan and Zimbabwe. Be with the refugees, and comfort the victims of violence and war.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Giving thanks for all the saints and martyrs, strengthen us through their example to be faithful disciples. Give us wisdom in discernment and strength in time of trial.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Lector: Please read the introduction, then the citation (i.e. "The First Reading is from the.... chapter of ..." - then read the text.)

First Reading - *Hosea's marriage to a faithless wife symbolizes Israel's faithlessness towards God. Even the names of Hosea's children—Jezreel (where Israel's idolatrous kings were killed), Lo-ruhamah ("not pitied"), and Lo-ammi ("not my people")—announce the nation's coming doom, countered by the proclamation that Israel remains a child of the living God.*

Hosea 1:2–10

When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, the LORD said to Hosea, "Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the LORD." So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

And the LORD said to him, "Name him Jezreel for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the LORD said to him,

"Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the LORD their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen." When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then the LORD said, "Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God."

Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," it shall be said to them, "Children of the living God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 85

You have been gracious to your land, O LORD;
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**You have forgiven the iniquity of your people
and blotted out all their sins.**

You have withdrawn all your fury
and turned yourself from your wrathful indignation.

**Restore us then, O God our Savior;
let your anger depart from us.**

Will you be displeased with us forever?
Will you prolong your anger from age to age?

**Will you not give us life again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,
and grant us your salvation.

**I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;
for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those
who turn their hearts to you.**

Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you
that your glory may dwell in our land.

**Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.**

Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

**The LORD will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness shall go before the LORD
and shall prepare for God a pathway.

Second Reading - *Paul warns his congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection, which is enacted in baptism.*

Colossians 2:6–19

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when

you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel Reading** - *In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to child-like trust and persistence in prayer.*

Luke 11:1–13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.