

The Living Word

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

19 October 2025

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.*

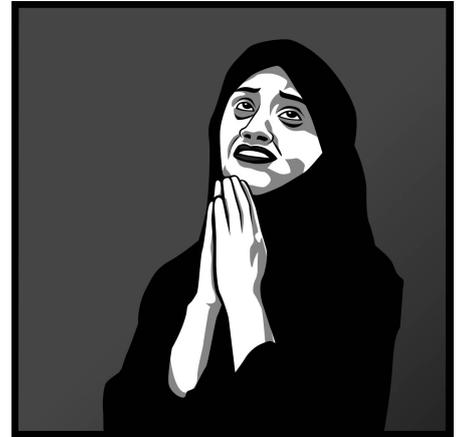
Alleluia!

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 Greg Sunter

In the gospel of Luke, widows represent the lowly of society. They also are a measure of how the society is travelling. In the Old Testament, God commanded the people to care for widows, orphans and strangers. Widows, in particular, were to be cared for by the whole community. From that point on, the level of compassion within the society could be measured by the care extended to the widows. A number of the prophets point to neglect of the widows as a sign that the community has turned its back on the covenant with God. The gospel of Luke picks up this prophetic tradition and on several occasions uses widows as the key figures in stories or parables.

In this parable, the widow is petitioning her local judge for justice against towards the widow, but the judge fobs her off repeatedly. The widow, knowing that her cause is just, persists and finally wears down the judge.

Another feature of the gospel of Luke is that the lowly and poor – represented here by the widow – are those who recognise their own condition and call on the mercy of God to lift them up. Jesus says that God will see justice done to those who cry out for God's help. Jesus' final comment about finding any faith on earth is a reminder that human beings have a tendency to think they can solve all their own problems and forget that they need God's action in their lives. The faithful in the gospel of Luke are those who know that they are in need of God's mercy and love and call out for it.

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St Paul of the Cross was born Paolo Francesco Danei in 1694 in the Northern Italian town of Ovada. He came from a wealthy merchant family and at the age of 19 he experienced a conversion to a life of prayer. He came to the conclusion that the Passion of Christ was the greatest sign of God's love and a means by which people can come to a greater union with God. He devoted his life to spreading this message and at the age of 26 he founded the religious order "the Poor of Jesus"; later to become known as "the Congregation of the Passion of Jesus Christ". Passionists live a life of solitude and contemplation, devoting at least three hours a day to prayer. They are easily recognised through the labeled emblem of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, surmounted by a cross, which is usually sewn into their clothing.

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

