



AMDG
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME
YEAR C
14TH JULY 2019



‘The Word is very near you’

OPENING PRAYER

O God, who show the light of your truth
to those who go astray,
so that they may return to the right path,
give all who for the faith they profess
are accounted Christians
the grace to reject whatever is contrary to the name of Christ
and to strive after all that does it honour.

The Liturgy this Sunday takes us to the very heart of how we are called to live fully human lives as the Body of Christ alive in the world today.

We are reminded in the *First Reading* that we do not have to search far to find God. The Word of God is in our hearts to be felt, and on our lips to be proclaimed to the world. God is within us and all around us!

In the letter to the Colossians (*Second Reading*), this revelation is expanded further. Christ is the beginning and centre of all things, forever expressed throughout creation. Christ is in all that we see and all that is known to us, and is also in all that is hidden and beyond our comprehension. As a community of believers in God’s law of love, we are Christ in the world today, united as one through Christ.

The *Psalms* is an expression of our need and yearning for God’s compassion and love. God is forever turning towards us with that love.

The *Gospel* challenges us to take our faith to a deeper level. We are called to love God with all our heart, soul and being, and this love is to be demonstrated not only in how we relate to ourselves but in how we relate to our neighbour. Jesus wants us to be aware that his Spirit of love is being expressed in the world by people we might even hold in contempt. There are no limits to God’s love, and God will always find a way to break through the barriers of our fear and prejudice. This challenge may seem overwhelming, but we are not alone; we are one in Christ. Let us encourage and support each other through prayer, confident that God’s law of love will be our guide.

SECOND READING COLOSSIANS 1: 15–20

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth:
everything visible and everything invisible,
Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers –
Before anything was created, he existed,
and he holds all things in unity.
Now the Church is his body,
he is its head.
As he is the Beginning,
he was first to be born from the dead,
so that he should be first in every way;
because God wanted all perfection
to be found in him
and all things to be reconciled through him and for him,
everything in heaven and everything on earth,
when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Wherever I choose to pray today, whether I am sitting, standing or kneeling,
I become aware of how my body connects to the ground beneath me.
I allow my mind and body to slow down, and notice how I am connected to the
whole of the earth and all of creation through the senses of my body.
I recall the words from this Sunday's First Reading, that 'the Word of God is very
near to me'.

With this in mind, I prayerfully read the passage, whilst maintaining my
awareness of my connection to creation through my senses.

I pause on words or phrases that bring me consolation or curiosity.
I may stay pondering on these few words, or I may let the whole passage speak
to my needs. I share this with God.

When I dwell on the wonder of creation, with all that is known and unknown to
me, where am I aware of God's presence?

I thank God that I am part of the Body of Christ expressed through and within
God's unfolding creation.

I ask for the grace to live as full a life as possible in the part of creation that has
been gifted to me.

Glory be to the Father ...

GOSPEL LUKE 10: 25–37

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, ‘Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?’ He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? What do you read there?’ He replied, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’ ‘You have answered right’, said Jesus. ‘Do this and life is yours.’

But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’ Jesus replied, ‘A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have’. ‘Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands’ hands?’ ‘The one who took pity on him,’ he replied. Jesus said to him, ‘Go, and do the same yourself.’

After gently easing my mind and body to become still, I ask God to help me read this familiar Gospel passage with an open spirit, so that I may become aware of how God wants me to live a life of love with all my heart, soul and strength.

I slowly read the Gospel. I pause in silence, noticing what questions arise from this, and then read the passage again.

What does Jesus’s choice of a Samaritan, a man despised by observant Jews, tell me about compassion and love?

If Jesus were retelling this story today, who would be the Priest, Levite and Samaritan? Where do I recognise myself in this story?

Knowing that Jesus does not judge me, how is he wanting me to ‘go and do the same’ as the Samaritan in the parable?

In silence ... I listen ... and then ask God for all that I need in order to respond to his call.

I finish my prayer *‘In the name of the Father ...’*

Here's a text if you've only got a minute ...

The Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.

First Reading

Lord answer, for your love is kind;
in your compassion, turn towards me.

Psalm

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,
and your neighbour as yourself.

Gospel

This week's texts if you want to reflect further

Deuteronomy 30: 10–14; Ps. 68 (69); Colossians 1: 15–20; Luke 10: 25–37



And who is my neighbour?



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