



AMDG  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME  
YEAR C  
28TH JULY 2019



**‘Lord, teach us to pray.’**

OPENING PRAYER

O God, protector of those who hope in you,  
without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy,  
bestow in abundance your mercy upon us  
and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may use the good things that pass in such a way  
as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

As this Sunday’s *Gospel Acclamation* reminds us, ‘The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.’ Today’s readings also reveal a parent God who cares for us. We are his children, the ‘works of his hands’.

Though we have fallen short (*First Reading*), God finds the good in us and is ever ready to respond with faithfulness and compassion (*Psalms*). The Lord answers our call through his eternal love.

St Paul’s letter to the Colossians (*Second Reading*) shows the extent of that eternal love. God is willing to go even to the cross in order that we might be brought to new life.

The opening section of today’s *Gospel* gives us the shorter form of the Lord’s Prayer, and this is followed by the parable of the friend who comes by night. This teaches perseverance in prayer and shows that God’s parental love far surpasses any human love.

This week, let us be confident that the One who brings us to life will continue to love us with an infinite love and will give us all the good things we need.

## PSALM 137 (138)

*R/. On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.*

**I** thank you, Lord, with all my heart,  
you have heard the words of my mouth.  
In the presence of the angels I will bless you.  
I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love  
which excel all we ever knew of you.  
On the day I called, you answered;  
you increased the strength of my soul.

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly  
and the haughty he knows from afar.  
Though I walk in the midst of affliction  
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me,  
your hand will do all things for me.  
Your love, O Lord, is eternal,  
discard not the work of your hands.

I begin by becoming still and by placing all my afflictions and frustrations into the care of the Lord. I try to enter this time of prayer with a spirit and heart full of gratitude.

I read the psalm slowly, pausing often. And I ask, 'What are *the words of my mouth?*' What do I want to say to the Lord today?

I may like to reflect on where I have been shown the Lord's faithfulness and love. I ponder, gently, gratefully, for all that has been gifted to me.

Perhaps I am feeling the need to have my soul, my hope and my trust, strengthened. I ask for this now, confident that when I call, the Lord will answer me.

The Lord does all things for me. How easy is it for me to hand over everything to him, and to trust him implicitly?

I speak with the Lord honestly and with great freedom.

As I come to the end of my prayer, I consider that I am safe in the hands of the Lord, still being worked upon, still being brought to completion.

I am valued for what I am, and for what I am becoming. 'Glory be ...'

## GOSPEL LUKE 11: 1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said, ‘Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.’ He said to them, ‘Say this when you pray:

“Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come;  
give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins,  
for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us.  
And do not put us to the test.”

He also said to them, ‘Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, “My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him”; and the man answers from inside the house, “Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it to you.” I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship’s sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

‘So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. Ather among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg?  
If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’

I choose a ‘certain place’ and go to it to pray. I sit comfortably, yet alert, and ask for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As I slowly read the passage, I may find it helpful to picture myself sitting alongside the praying figure of Jesus. I pray with him, and then listen to his teaching about the loving compassion of the Father.

I think of times when I have been shown love, whether felt directly from God or indirectly through others. What does God’s parental concern say to me about how much I am loved and held in his care?

I may naturally be inclined to think of my own parents.  
What was my childhood like?

Perhaps some experiences of limited human love have prevented me from trusting God’s fatherly/motherly love.

It may be enough, just now, to simply say I hope to believe ever more deeply that God’s love for me is far greater than human love. I share honestly with the Lord, confident that he is close by, listening with great compassion.

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

I thank you for your faithfulness and love,  
which excel all we ever knew of you.

*Psalm*

He has brought you to life with him.

*Second Reading*

'Lord, teach us to pray.'

*Gospel*

How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit  
to those who ask him!

*Gospel*

*This week's texts if you want to reflect further*

*Genesis 18: 20–32; Psalm 137 (138); Colossians 2: 12–14; Luke 11: 1–13*



*'My friend,  
lend me three  
loaves ...'*

How does  
this image  
speak to me  
in my prayer?



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**JESUIT**  
Ministries



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