



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

I pray to the Lord who bends close to hear my prayer. *Opening Prayer*

My help shall come from the Lord who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 120*

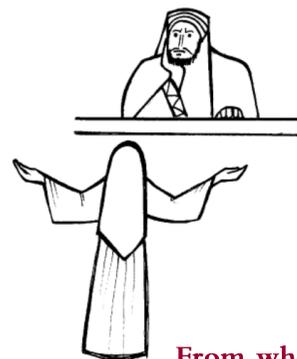
Refuse falsehood, correct error ... but do this with patience and with the intention of teaching. *Second Reading*

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. *Gospel Acclamation*

Will not God see justice done to his chosen who cry to him day and night even when he delays to help them? *The Gospel*

REFLECTION

Is there someone with whom it may be helpful for me to share my reflection?



AMDG
29TH SUNDAY OF
ORDINARY TIME YEAR C,
16 OCTOBER 2016

**From where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the Lord.**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord our God, Father of all,
you guard us under the shadow of your wings
and search into the depths of our hearts.

Remove the blindness that cannot know you
and relieve the fear that would hide us from your sight.

Slowly and quietly I settle down to pray. Perhaps I sit or kneel before a statue, a holy picture, or a lit candle – whatever helps me open myself ‘to the Lord who bends close to hear our prayer.’

I read the prayer slowly – deliberately lingering on each individual word.

On what do I find myself pondering? Which phrase or word appears to move me the most?

I notice the images: ‘the shadow of your wings’, ‘the depths of our hearts’, the ‘blindness’ ...

I ask the Lord to help me name my fears. I let him come close to me, and I wait patiently for his Spirit of Love to touch, encourage or maybe even challenge me.

Before closing my prayer, I read the text once more making it my own.

What has this time of prayer meant to me?

I tell the Lord and thank him.

Prepared by St Beuno's Outreach in the
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LDS

2 TIMOTHY 3: 14-4: 2

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.

Here Paul is exhorting his convert Timothy to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, with zeal and faithfulness.

If it helps me pray, I use my imagination and watch Timothy unfold the scroll and read aloud this letter written to him.

What happens within me as I enter the scene ... ?

Does a particular phrase or idea speak or appeal to me?

Perhaps as an invitation to get to know more about scripture?

Perhaps it challenges me to live Christ's values with greater integrity in my life, and to share them more with others with zeal and faithfulness?

Or do I simply feel that this 'work' is for others, braver than I?

I end my prayer speaking from my heart to the Lord and thanking him for guarding me at all times.

LUKE 18: 1-8

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 anyone. 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?'

We find two of the main themes of Luke's Gospel in this passage: some of Jesus' teaching on prayer; and his compassion for those neglected by society.

I may want to watch that poor widow (one of those unsupported in her society). I marvel at her persistence even if her only hope is in that cruel unfeeling judge ... ?

Shouldn't that encourage me to have at least that same faith and quiet persistence when I pray to our God who is always compassionate and concerned for me, and for those in need?

Who are the 'widows' (those neglected by society) begging for my help?

In what ways can I co-operate with God in bringing justice to those oppressed by society today?

I end my prayer slowly asking God for a stronger faith, shown in my actions.