

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

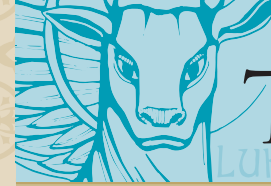
God will see those who cry to him vindicated.

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?'

■ The Gospel of the Lord.

Breaking Open the Word



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

16 OCTOBER 2022

PRAYER AND THE SCRIPTURES

Many people find the scriptures both fascinating and confusing. Written for different times and cultures between 2000-3000 years ago, it should come as no surprise that there are occasions when their meaning is not immediately clear, and their application to our lives uncertain. Today's readings from the second letter to Timothy reveal that it was not all that different for Christians late in the first century. Paul's letters were just beginning to be gathered and the gospels were just beginning to be preserved in written form. How should a community of faith make use of the Old Testament and these new Christian writings?

Timothy is challenged on a number of levels to use the scriptures as a resource for his ministry, providing sound teaching and guidance. One of the deepest challenges in the reading is that of proclaiming the message whether it is welcomed or not. It is a call to have the courage of one's convictions and persistent and enduring faith.

Jesus' parable about the widow and the unjust judge, as well as Moses' victory over the Amalekites, focus on how persistent and hope-filled prayer is essential for the life of faith. In an age when communication is almost instantaneous, it can come as a shock to learn that it is by patiently waiting and listening that we will best hear God's voice. While it may seem that God is slow to answer, sometimes it's our hearts that are slow to grow, change, and be attuned to God's plans!

Christopher Monaghan CP

FIRST READING

Ex 17:8-13

A reading from the book of Exodus

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 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.

■ The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 120. R. cf. 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 Tim 3:14-4:2

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to Timothy

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.

■ The word of the Lord.

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