

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

HOPEFUL EXPECTATION

‘What is the good of praying if wars and evil
things continue to exist? Prayer seems to have
no effect.’ A similar concern existed in Luke’s
day: why pray if it seems ineffectual? Today’s
Gospel speaks to the heart of this. It takes
the form of a parable, encouraging constant
prayer. The parable concerns an unjust judge
ignoring a troubling and annoying widow
who seeks justice against an *adversary*—even
though one translation inaccurately describes
her antagonist as an ‘enemy’. The widow
needs help, and the judge refuses her request.
That is, until she continues to badger him;
finally, he relinquishes.

Luke’s Jesus uses the story as a classical way
of describing God: if the judge finally relents
through persistent pleading how much more
quickly will God respond to those who cry
out for help. Prayer opens the one praying to
God’s presence, allowing God to act within the
one praying for what is needed. This deeply
religious perspective affects the pray-er in
daily life. This in turn shapes wider social
contact, which effects relationships and,
eventually, global change. Local personal
prayer has, though imperceptibly, universal
influence.

The last sentence of the Gospel speaks into
this global perspective: ‘When the Son of
Man comes will he find faith on earth?’ In
other words, in the eschaton, at the definitive
coming of Christ at the end of time, will
people have given up conviction that prayer is
effective and that God responds to the cry of
the needy? Today’s Gospel encourages us to
pray, constantly and with hopeful expectation.

Fr Michael Trainor



THE SAVING WORD

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / C

19 OCTOBER 2025

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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