

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

He is our God and we the flock that is led by his hand. *Psalm*

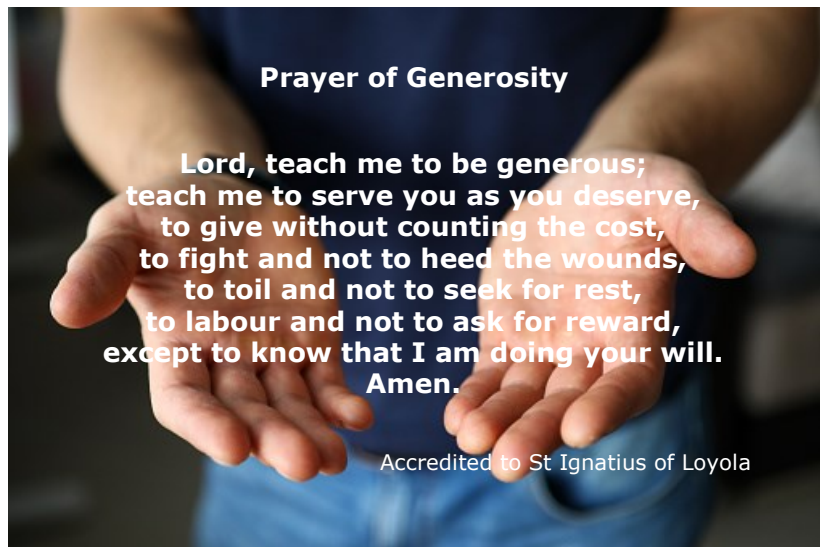
See how they flag, those whose soul is not at rights,
but those who are upright will live by their faithfulness. *First Reading*

You have been trusted to look after something precious;
guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us.
Second Reading

Father, your love for us
surpasses all our hopes and desires.
Forgive us our failings,
keep us in your peace
and lead us in the way of salvation.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Habak. 1: 2-3; 2: 2-4; Ps. 94 (95); 2 Tim. 1: 6-8. 13-14; Luke 17: 5-10



If you'd like to receive Prego by email each week, sign up at
www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

ST. BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C, 2nd October 2022

The apostles said to the Lord,
'Increase our faith!'

This Sunday's readings invite us to think in terms of trust and faithfulness. They remind us to be patient.

Habbakuk (**First Reading**) feels the Lord isn't listening when he asks why nothing is being done about the violence and outrage he sees. But the Lord reassures him that whatever the surrounding circumstances, the upright person will remain faithful, trusting in God.

In the **Gospel**, Jesus teaches about faith and service when the apostles ask him, 'Increase our faith!' He moves them away from considering faith as a quantity, to putting into practice what faith they do have. Jesus uses the size of a mustard seed to demonstrate the power of that faith. In the parable following, he then cautions the disciples about knowing one's place in God's plans, rather than having an attitude of 'what's in it for me?' Our relationship with God is to be one of total and unconditional love and service.

St Paul tells us that the gift of faith in Christ is the Spirit of power, love, and self-control. Armed with this Spirit, we are 'never to be ashamed of witnessing to the Lord', even if it means going against the tide, or enduring hardship. (**Second Reading**)

The **Psalmist** urges us, 'O that today you would listen to his voice!' We are to come before the Lord with open hearts, giving thanks and praise. Let's pray for a deepening of our own faith and trust in God, and for guidance to use our precious God-given gifts with a servant's heart. We also remember those suffering in war and conflict in Ukraine and beyond.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you,
pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.

Psalm 94 (95)

**R/. O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;
Hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord.

Come in; let us bow and bend low;
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we
the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.'

I come to my quiet place, making sure I'm comfortable. I begin to settle, consciously placing myself in the Lord's presence. I am in his care, and ask his Spirit to guide me in my prayer.

How am I today? However I feel, I trust in the Lord's infinite love for me. I take as long as I need to settle there is no rush.

When ready, I pray the psalm slowly, pausing after each verse. I notice if there is a word or image that draws me and ponder its significance.

What image of God do I have at the moment? Perhaps rock ... saviour ... creator ... shepherd ...?

The psalmist sings of listening to God's voice with an open heart 'today'! How do I respond?

What am I noticing as I ponder?

I sing out my own praises for what God has done for me and the people around me. Maybe there is something I'm especially thankful for today? I speak to the Lord freely from my heart.

I slowly bring my prayer to a close. *Glory be to the Father ...*

Gospel Luke 17: 5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith.' The Lord replied, 'Were your faith the size of a mustard seed you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

'Which of you, with a servant ploughing or minding sheep, would say to him when he returned from the fields, "Come and have your meal immediately?" Would they not be more likely to say, "Get my supper laid; make yourself tidy and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink yourself afterwards"? Must he be grateful to the servant for doing what he was told? So with you: when you have done all you have been told to do, say, "We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty".'

As I prepare for prayer, I place any concerns and desires into the Lord's safe hands, so that I can focus all my attention on this time with him. I may like to notice the gentle rhythm of my breathing.

In time, I prayerfully read and re-read the Gospel passage slowly and carefully, letting the words soak in.

I notice where am I drawn. What words touch me? What images stay with me? Am I struggling with anything?

I ponder why this is.

Asking the Holy Spirit to guide me, I reflect on the gift of faith the Lord has given me. Perhaps there have been times when I have struggled to believe?

I give thanks for the example and support of those who have helped my faith to grow.

Maybe I notice Jesus's final words to the apostles, 'Say: "*We are merely servants: we have done no more than our duty*".'

With gratitude, I ponder all the Lord has given me and done for me. Can I give and share of myself with joy, feeling good about 'doing my duty', rather than seeking approval or expecting special attention?

I speak to the Lord as a loving, caring friend about what arises.

Giving thanks, I ask God to deepen my faith and trust, and to help me grow in awareness of the trust placed in me.

I may like to end my prayer with '*The Prayer of Generosity*' overleaf.