

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

I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord.

Psalm

Pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly.

Second Reading

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Communion Antiphon

Almighty Father,
strong is your justice and great is your mercy.
Protect us in the burdens and challenges of life.
Shield our minds from the distortion of pride
and enfold our desire with the beauty of truth.

Old Opening Prayer

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

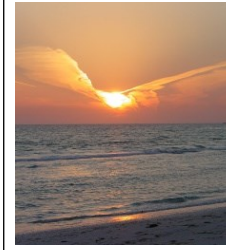
2 Macc. 7: 1-2, 9-14; Ps. 16 (17); 2 Thess. 2:16-3:5; Luke 20: 27-38



Being children of
the resurrection,
they are sons
and daughters
of God.

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C, 6th November 2022

Guard me as the apple of your eye.
Hide me in the shadow of your wings.

As we move towards the end of the liturgical year, the readings invite us to think about endings: not in a fearful way, but with an invitation to hope and trust in the God of resurrection and life.

The **First Reading** tells of a valiant mother who, strong in her hope of the resurrection, encourages her faith-filled sons to suffer martyrdom rather than prove unfaithful to God.

Jesus, answering the sly question posed by the Saducees (**Gospel**), demonstrates that they have not even begun to understand the transformation of life that will take place after the resurrection. Heaven is about union with the God who is Lord of life and the living.

Paul prays that our Lord and Father may strengthen the young Christian community of Thessalonica with the grace of strength, comfort and hope (**Second Reading**). He also warns them to be alert to 'the interference of bigoted and evil people', who would prevent the Lord's message of love spreading quickly throughout the world.

The **Psalm** is a prayer of trust in God and appeals for deliverance from enemies who have wrongfully accused the psalmist. The images used to describe God are both intimate and striking.

This week, we pray for all innocent people in our own times who suffer imprisonment, torture and death. We also pray that Christ Jesus's message of love and compassion for the whole of life may spread quickly throughout the world.



Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
Graciously keep from us all adversity,
So that, unhindered of body and mind alike,
We may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 2: 16–3: 5

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father who has given us his love and, through his grace, such inexhaustible comfort and such sure hope, comfort you and strengthen you in everything good that you do or say.

Finally, sisters and brothers, pray for us; pray that the Lord's message may spread quickly, and be received with honour as it was amongst you; and pray that we may be preserved from the interference of bigoted and evil people, for faith is not given to everyone. But the Lord is faithful, and he will give you strength and guard you from the evil one, and we, in the Lord, have every confidence that you are doing and will go on doing all that we tell you. May the Lord turn your hearts towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ.

As I come to pray, I ask to meet and be met by the great Inner Presence of Love that I call God. I settle into the truth that Christ is within me. In my own way, I slow my mind, body and heart ...

I ask the life-giving Holy Spirit to *turn my heart towards the love of God and the fortitude of Christ*.

I read this rich passage slowly. Then I read it again to grow my awareness of its message, allowing it to find a home within me. I notice and stay with any phrase or word that opens a 'gateway' into my heart.

With an open heart and mind, I ponder whatever arises.

Perhaps I consider this time of prayer as an opportunity to ask for, and to receive, divine comfort and strength in my own life ... or maybe in the life of another who is going through challenging times.

Do I, or does someone else, need the Lord's protection from the *evil one*?

I share whatever I am experiencing in faith and trust with my Lord.

I rest in the goodness of God.

I ask the Spirit of hope to show me how I can share God's message and love with others, even more fully.

I pray that *the Lord's message may spread quickly* in this beautiful, yet troubled and spiritually hungry world.

When I feel ready, I end my prayer slowly, to the Trinity. *Glory be ...*

Gospel Luke 20: 27–38 (shorter form)

Some Sadducees – those who say that there is no resurrection – approached Jesus and put this question to him.

Jesus replied, 'The children of this world take wives and husbands, but those who are judged worthy of a place in the other world and in the resurrection from the dead do not marry because they can no longer die, for they are the same as angels, and being children of the resurrection they are sons and daughters of God. And Moses himself implies that the dead rise again, in the passage about the bush where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is God, not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all people are in fact alive.'

I consciously slow down, in preparation for my prayer time with the risen Christ. I become more aware of my life-giving breath, inviting Christ to breathe upon me ... to fill me with the Holy Spirit.

When ready, I read this profound passage slowly. It may help me connect to the meaning if I read Jesus's words aloud.

I may ask again for the grace and inspiration of the Spirit, as I ponder Jesus's teaching on the resurrection.

What does resurrection mean for me ... whether Christ's resurrection ... or my own resurrection? How does it feel to be a *child of the resurrection*?

What speaks now to my heart?

As I continue to meditate on the Gospel, I may be drawn to Jesus's wisdom and insight about God our Father: the *God of the living ...* the giver of life. I allow these words to sink into my whole being.

With the gentle and compassionate support of Jesus, I reflect on my own life. What is life-giving for me at the moment?

What drains me of life and hope, and of the sense of being a child of the Living God?

I share with the Lord whatever is in my heart, as with a dear and trusted friend.

I ask for the grace to yield to the Lord, to surrender my whole being to his presence and action in my life.

I close my prayer with a slow sign of the cross.