

Prayers For December 2007

Meditation Mark 10, 17-22

(from the Mass for the 28th Sunday of the Year, Year B)

Jesus was setting out on a journey when a man ran up, knelt before him and put this question to him, “Good master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: You must not kill; You must not commit adultery; You must not steal; You must not give false witness; You must not defraud; Honour your father and mother.” And he said to him, “Master, I have kept all these from my earliest days.” Jesus looked steadily at him and loved him, and he said. “There is only one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven, then come, follow me.” But his face fell at these words and he went away sad, for he was a man of great wealth.

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 89

Fill us with your love that we may rejoice.

- 1 Make us know the shortness of our life
that we may gain wisdom of heart.
Lord relent ! Is your anger for ever ?
Show pity on your servants.
- 2 In the morning, fill us with your love;
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Give us joy to balance our affliction
for the years when we knew misf
- 3 Show forth your work to your servants;
let your glory shine on your children.
Let the favour of the Lord be upon us :
give success to the work of our hands



fragment of Psalm 89

Concluding Prayer

Lord, our help and guide, make your love the foundation of our lives. May our love for you express itself in our eagerness to do good for others. **Amen**

Prayers For January 2008

Meditation Mark 2, 1-12

(from the Mass for the 7th Sunday of the Year, Year B)

When Jesus returned to Capernum, word went round that he was back; and so many people collected that there was no room left, even in front of the door. He was preaching the word to them when some people came bringing him a paralytic carried by four men, but as the crowd made it impossible to get the man to him, they stripped the roof over the place where Jesus was; and when they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic lay. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "My child, your sins are forgiven." Now some scribes were sitting there, and they thought to themselves, "How can this man talk like that? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God?" Jesus, inwardly aware that this is what they were thinking, said to them, "Why do you have these thoughts in your hearts? Which of these is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven' or to say, 'Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk'? But to prove to you that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins," (he said to the paralytic) "I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home." And the man got up, picked up his stretcher at once and walked out in front of everyone, so that they were all astonished and praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this."

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 40

Hear my soul for I have sinned against you.

1. Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak.
The Lord will save him in the day of evil,
Will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land
and will not give him up to the will of his foes.
2. The Lord will help him on his bed of pain,
he will bring him back from sickness to health.
As for me, I said; "Lord, have mercy on me,
heal my soul for I have sinned against you."
3. If you uphold me I shall be unharmed
and set in your presence for evermore.
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel
from age to age. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Father, keep before us the wisdom and love you have revealed in your Son. Help us to be like him in word and deed, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

Prayers For February 2008

Meditation Luke 6: 17, 20-26

(from the Mass for the 6th Sunday of the Year, Year C)

Jesus came down with the Twelve and stopped at a piece of level ground where there was a large gathering of his disciples with a great crowd of people from all parts of Judaea and from Jerusalem and from the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon who had come to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. Then fixing his eyes on his disciples he said : “How happy are you who are poor: yours is the kingdom of God. Happy you who are hungry now: you shall be satisfied. Happy you who weep now: you shall laugh. Happy are you when people hate you, drive out, abuse you, denounce your name as a criminal, on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice when that day comes and dance for joy, for then your reward will be great in heaven. This was the way their ancestors treated the prophets. But alas for you who are rich: you are having your consolation now. Alas for you who have your fill now: you shall go hungry. Alas for you who laugh now: you shall mourn and weep. Alas for you when the world speaks well of you ! This was the way their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

Responsorial Psalm Psalm 1

Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.

1. Happy indeed is the man
who follows not the counsel of the wicked;
nor lingers in the way of sinners
nor sits in the company of scorners,
but whose delight is the law of the Lord
and who ponders his law day and night.
2. He is like a tree that is planted
Beside the flowing waters,
that yields its fruit in due season
and whose leaves shall never fade;
and all that he does shall prosper
3. Not so are the wicked, not so !
For they like winnowed chaff
shall be driven away by the wind.
For the Lord guards the way of the just
but the way of the wicked leads to doom



Concluding Prayer

God our Father, you have promised to remain for ever with those who do what is just and right. Help us to live in your presence. **Amen**