



EUCHALETTE

27 July 2025

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year C

WORLD DAY OF GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

FIL-MISSION SUNDAY

Persistent Prayer that Conquers God's Heart

Jesus taught his disciples and us to relate to God not as someone to be feared, but as a loving Father to be loved in return. He also taught us to pray to Him as children approach their parents and to address Him as “Abba/Father/Ama,” with faith and persistence.

In the Lord’s Prayer, we profess not only God’s fatherhood but also the universal brotherhood of all human beings. We proclaim our call to work together; to build the Kingdom through love, mutual forgiveness, and unity of intent in opposing evil and spreading goodness everywhere. Let us make the Lord’s Prayer our daily source of inspiration and let us become part of a few good people called to prayer and persistent faith!



INTRODUCTORY RITES



Entrance Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)

**God is in his holy place,
God who unites those who
dwell in his house; he himself
gives might and strength to his
people. (Cf. Ps 68(67):6-7.36)**

Greeting

P –In the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy
Spirit!

All–Amen!

P –The grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be
with you all!

All– And with your spirit!

Penitential Act

P –As we prepare to celebrate
the Sacred Mysteries, let us call
to mind our sins and ask the Lord
for pardon and strength. *(Pause)*

Penitential Act

P –Brethren, let us acknowl-
edge our sins, and so prepare
ourselves to celebrate the sacred
mysteries. *(Pause)*

**P&All –I confess to almighty
God and to you, my brothers
and sisters, that I have greatly
sinned, in my thoughts and in
my words, in what I have done
and in what I have failed to
do, (strike your breast) through
my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous
fault. Therefore I ask blessed
Mary ever-Virgin, all the An-
gels and Saints, and you, my
brothers and sisters, to pray
for me to the Lord our God.**

P –May almighty God have
mercy on us, forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

All–Amen!

P –Lord, have mercy!

All–Lord, have mercy!

P –Christ, have mercy!

All–Christ, have mercy!

P –Lord, have mercy!

All–Lord, have mercy!

P –May almighty God have
mercy on us, forgive us our
sins, and bring us to everlasting
life!

All–Amen!

Gloria

All–Glory to God in the high-
est, and on earth peace to people
of good will. We praise you,
we bless you, we adore you, we
glorify you, we give you thanks
for your great glory, Lord God,
heavenly King, O God, almighty
Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Be-
gotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of
God, Son of the Father, you take
away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us; you take away the
sins of the world, receive our
prayer; you are seated at the right
hand of the Father, have mercy
on us. For you alone are the Holy
One, you alone are the Lord, you
alone are the Most High, Jesus
Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen!

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Collect (Opening Prayer)

P —O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All—Amen!

LITURGY OF THE WORD



1st Reading *Gn 18:20-32*

From the dramatic dialogue between Abraham and God we learn the importance and power of the prayer of intercession uttered by a righteous person. But we also learn that God's mercy has to be matched by our effort to live according to His moral demands.

R —A reading from the Book of Genesis

In those days, the Lord said: "The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great, and their sin so grave, that I must go down and see whether or not their actions fully correspond to the cry against them that comes to me. I mean to find out." While Abraham's visitors walked on farther toward Sodom, the Lord remained standing before Abraham.

Then Abraham drew nearer and said: "Will you sweep away the innocent with the guilty? Suppose there were fifty innocent people in the city; would you wipe out the place, rather than spare it for the sake of the fifty innocent people within it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to make the innocent die with the guilty, so that the innocent and the guilty would be treated alike! Should not the judge of all the world act with justice?" He

replied, "If I find fifty innocent people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake."

Abraham spoke up again: "See how I am presuming to speak to my Lord, though I am but dust and ashes! What if there are five less than fifty innocent people? Will you destroy the whole city because of those five?" He answered, "I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there."

But Abraham persisted, saying, "What if only forty are found there?" The Lord replied, "I will forbear doing it for the sake of the forty."

Then Abraham said, "Let not my Lord grow impatient if I go on. What if only thirty are found there?" The Lord replied, "I will forbear doing it if I can find but thirty there."

Still Abraham went on, "Since I have thus dared to speak to my Lord, what if there are no more than twenty?" The Lord answered, "I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty."

But Abraham still persisted: "Please, let not my Lord grow angry if I speak up this last time. What if there are at least ten there?" He replied, "For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it."

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Responsorial Psalm *Ps 138*

R —Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me!

R. M. Velez



* I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with all my heart, for you have heard the words of my mouth. In the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;

I will worship at your holy temple and give thanks to your name. *R.*

* Because of your kindness and your truth; for you have made great above all things your name and your promise. When I called, you answered me; you built up strength within me. *R.*

* The Lord is exalted, yet the lowly he sees, and the proud he knows from afar. Though I walk amid distress, you preserve me; against the anger of my enemies, you raise your hand. *R.*

* Your right hand saves me. The Lord will complete what he has done for me; your kindness, O Lord, endures forever. Forsake not the work of your hands. *R.*

2nd Reading *Col 2:12-14*

The apostle Paul reminds us that it is thanks to the intercession of the crucified Christ that our merciful God has granted us forgiveness of our sins and a share in his risen life.

R —A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

You were buried with Christ in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And even when you were dead in transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he brought you to life along with him, having forgiven us all our transgressions; obliterating the bond against us, with its legal claims, which was opposed to us. He also removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross.

The Word of the Lord!
All—Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

All—Alleluia! Alleluia!

You have received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, "Abba, Father." Alleluia! Alleluia!

Gospel *Lk 11:1-13*
Jesus taught his disciples the

importance of prayer through his words and example. In today's Gospel passage, we have the Lucan version of "the Lord's Prayer" and a pressing exhortation to present our petitions to the Father with trust-filled perseverance.

P –The Lord be with you!
All—And with your spirit!

P –A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All—Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." Jesus said to them, "When you pray, say:

'Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.' "

Jesus said to them: "Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived at my house from a journey and I have nothing to offer him,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked and my children and I are already in bed. I cannot get up to give you anything.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give whatever he needs because of his persistence.

And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the

Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

The Gospel of the Lord!
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Homily

Profession of Faith

(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow)* **and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.*** For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen!

Prayer of the Faithful

P –Encouraged by Jesus' exhortation to pray with persevering trust and persistent faith, let us submit to the Father our humble petitions for the needs of all including our own.

All—Lord, graciously hear us!

C –Father, bless the Church,

Your family on earth. Make her the spiritual guide of all peoples, leading them to generous cooperation. We pray! **R.**

C –Father, bless Pope Leo XIV and all our religious leaders throughout the world. Make them instruments of Your fatherly love for all. We pray! **R.**

C –Father, bless our families and make them havens of sincere love, solidarity, and peace. We pray! **R.**

C –Father, bless our grandparents and the elderly, both those who are still living, and those who have gone to their rest: May the Lord reward them abundantly for the love they have lavished upon. We pray! **R.**

C –Father, bless our Filipino brothers and sisters who are working in the missions. May they find strength and consolation in times of trials. We pray! **R.**

P –Loving Father, do not look at our unworthiness, but at the sincerity of our love. Grant us the grace to persevere in humble prayer. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen!



Preparation of the Gifts

P –Pray, brethren . . .

All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P –Accept, O Lord, we pray, the offerings which we bring from the abundance of your gifts, that through the powerful working of your grace these most sacred mysteries may sanctify our present way of life and lead us to eternal gladness.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen!

Preface I

P –The Lord be with you!

All—And with your spirit!

P —Lift up your hearts!

All—We lift them up to the Lord!

P —Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All—It is right and just!

P —It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For through his Paschal Mystery, he accomplished the marvelous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Memorial Acclamation

P —The mystery of faith!

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!

COMMUNION RITE



All—Our Father . . .

P —Deliver us, Lord . . .

All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread

All—Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion

P —Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb.

All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

(Ps 103 (102):2)

Prayer after Communion

P —We have consumed, O Lord, this divine Sacrament, the perpetual memorial of the Passion of your Son; grant, we pray, that this gift, which he himself gave us with love beyond all telling, may profit us for salvation.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen!

CONCLUDING RITES



P —The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit!

P —May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All—Amen!

P —Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

All—Thanks be to God!



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A FEW GOOD PEOPLE!

Kalakbay at Katoto

The little, the seemingly insignificant, the few, and the powerless . . . those who don't seem to count; the perpetual underdogs; those whose lives don't make waves: the widows, the orphans, the poor, and the lowly . . . these are those who can make a difference, those whose presence – and persistence – can mean life, fullness of life both for themselves and others, or the utter lack of it for everyone.

I refer to the “power of one.” I speak of the riches behind the widow's mite, the force of puny David's stone that spelled defeat of the mighty Goliath. I point to the authority of the twelve – the Lord's “few, good men” whose conviction and faith, despite the onrush and crushing weight of the worldly power of kings, emperors, and tyrants over the past two thousand years.

The faith that we celebrate today in this church and all over the world is a testimony of the power of these “few good men” – and women – whose lives (and deaths) spelled life for all of us women and men of good will, life in all its fullness, as the good Lord would have us inherit.



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Our faith, which we share with all brothers and sisters in the whole Christian world, deserves this weekly (daily for some) gathering of prayer, praise, worship, and thanksgiving. As we do Eucharist, though, we are all aware that the world we live in, is in a situation that, to be honest, leads us to ask this burning question: *"Should not the judge of the world act justly?"*

When we see what we are capable of doing; when we behold what we all are guilty of; when we are face to face with the reality of human depravity and sinfulness; when we acknowledge the fact that two thousand years after the coming of the promised One, the world is nowhere near being fully and definitively saved; when we cannot but stand as helpless witnesses to the ravages of war, terrorism, corruption, and the all-pervading signs of a "culture of death" in our midst, we are led to ask: *"Should not the judge of the world act justly?"* Should God not finally intervene in this messy world that everywhere seems to reek of personal, social, and structural evil?

Today stands out as a day of persistence. On the one hand, we see Abraham's consistent and constant pleadings before the Lord for the sake of *"a few good people"* in the city of Sodom and Gomorrah. On the other hand, we see also God's own brand of persistence in His answer that was as firm as it was gentle: *"I will spare the whole place for their sake."* *"I will not destroy it, if I find forty-five there."* *"I will not destroy it, for the sake of the twenty."* *"For the sake of those ten, I will not destroy it."*

Abraham's perseverance in prayer is matched by God's infinite justice. In a society and culture that prizes a kind of "corporate personality" and where "social responsibility" is highly valued, the presence of a "few good people" – along with the persistent and faith-filled intercessory prayer of one on behalf of the whole, occasions God's justice that then overflows in mercy. *"I will not destroy it,"* says the Lord of mercy and justice.

This is definitely good news for us all. At a time when "hope grows grey hairs" and patience wears thin, when more bad than good news fills our social media platforms, when all we see seems to be the triumph of not a "few good people," but a whole lot of evildoers, the Church invites us to pray along with Abraham and the psalmist, *"Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me."*

You answer us, O Lord God. You definitely do. But we know all too well, that your answer has to be matched by a call on our part. We do know that reciprocity is part and parcel of the dialogue of salvation that you have come to grant us in Christ, Your Son. We do realize that this gift of salvation is both a gift and a task – Your work and ours; Your grace and our cooperation. You have done justice to us, O Lord God. Even where

we were dead in transgressions, you brought us to life along with Christ, Your Son. You forgave us all our transgressions; you obliterated the bonds against us, with its legal claims, and Christ, Your Son removed it from our midst, nailing it to the cross.

Today is a day of persistent prayer. Today is a day when the light of faith ought to overcome the darkness of hopelessness and cynicism. And the good news is ... the Lord Himself gives us THE model of persistence prayer – the Our Father. Persistence is the character of this prayer. Perseverance is etched in the very language of this prayer that asks, not for food for tomorrow and for the distant future, but only for "today," and only for what is strictly necessary to maintain oneself in "being" (*epiousion*).

Today's good news includes a blanket authority for us to "pray without ceasing." Today's good news gives us the right to pelt God with prayers, for *"we have received a Spirit of adoption, through which we cry, Abba, Father."* Today's good news offers us the privilege of drawing near to God, for *"[we] were buried with [Christ] in baptism, in which [we] were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead."* Today's celebration seals our right to *"give thanks with all [our] heart," "because of His kindness and His truth,"* for *"on the day [we] called for help, God answered us."*

There are reasons galore for us to approach this loving, merciful, and just God. There are enough reasons to continue on believing, to go on hoping, even against hope – even if, alas, there are so "few good people" left on this earth.

A few good people ... These are the men and women who continue to show that God is alive and well, and working in our midst. These are the men and women who live unheralded lives of indomitable heroism and quiet faith. These are the men and women who pray fervently and faithfully behind closed doors, before flickering candles in dark and dingy churches. These are the men and women whose earthly lives may be surrounded by every imaginable type of darkness – the darkness of personal suffering, of poverty, powerlessness, and pain – but whose hearts are aglow with the resplendent assurance that can only come from a God who declares: *"I will not destroy it."*

A few good people ... a few good men and women ... a few persistent souls before a God of permanent love, justice and overflowing mercy. A few good people is all we need. For their sake, for the sake of those who seek, for the sake of those who knock, and for the sake of those who ask, God and His love will remain steadfast forever!

Can we be counted along with these "few good people?"