



Liturgy Cycle C

Seventeenth Sunday Of The Year

How To Pray

Introduction

The Mass is above all a great opportunity to pray. The Mass is a' prayer - the greatest of all prayers. So let us make sure that we do pray it. The word of God will tell us the kind of things for which a Christian ought to pray. At the same time we have to open our hearts and make the prayers and needs of others our own.

First Reading (Genesis 18:20-32)

Abraham intercedes with God on behalf of Sodom, a city full of evil. We catch the flavour of the bargaining that might go on in an oriental bazaar with prices being ruthlessly slashed.

Second Reading (Colossians 2:12-14)

Through Baptism a Christian is inserted into Christ's death and resurrection; he dies to the old sinful way of life, and rises to live a new life.

Gospel (Luke 11:1-13)

The apostles ask Christ to teach them how to pray. In reply Christ urges them to come to the Father, and with childlike trust, to pray to him for all their spiritual and temporal needs.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray in the spirit of the Our Father: with unlimited confidence in God, in his love for us and presence with us.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the followers of Jesus: that they may seek to know the will of the Father and have the grace and strength to do it in their daily lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those responsible for public order: that they may work for the coming of the Kingdom of God; a kingdom of holiness and truth, a kingdom of justice, love and peace. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in special need: the sick, the troubled, the lonely, the despairing. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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That we may have the 'bread' to meet our daily needs; the greatness of heart to be able to forgive; the courage to love even our enemies; the strength to overcome our temptations and all evil. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Asking, seeking, and knocking.

**Christ said that the person who asked would receive;
the person who searched would find;
and the person who knocked would have the door opened to him.**

**But if a person asks in a half-hearted way,
then he will not receive.
And if he fears to lose the pleasures of the old world,
then he will not find the joys of a new world.
And if he knocks half fearing that the door will open,
so that he will go in and be shut off
from the comforts of the world,
then the door will not open to him.**

**There are some people who are unwilling
to renounce a single one of their former values
in order to gain a new one.
Such people will never be unified or free,
and they make it very difficult for themselves
to enter the kingdom of God.**