



Liturgy Cycle C

Twenty-Seventh Sunday Of The Year

Still Only Mere Servants

Introduction

Some people think that they are doing God a favour when they keep his laws and worship him. But to serve God is not a duty. It is a privilege. The quality which, above all others, we should bring to our service is that of love. Even when we've done all we are supposed to do we still have only done our duty. What sort of spirit do we bring to our worship and service of God?

First Reading (Habakkuk 1: 2-3; 2:2-4)

The prophet complains to God about the prevalence of injustice. God responds by promising to save those who trust in him.

Second Reading (2 Tim 1:6-8, 13-14)

Timothy is urged to accept his share of suffering for the Gospel, and, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to bear these sufferings cheerfully as Paul did.

Gospel (Luke 17:5-10)

A little faith, provided it be authentic, can do great things. The disciples are urged to serve God without any claim on a reward.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Even if we have faith strong enough to move mountains, it will benefit us nothing if we have no love. With this in mind let us make our prayers known to the Father.

R: Lord, grant us a loving faith.

That the Lord may sustain the Church in the faith of the apostles, helping us to encourage each other and share our gifts. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, grant us a loving faith.

For employers: that they may pay decent wages and treat their employees in a way that enhances their human dignity. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, grant us a loving faith.

For all those who are assailed by doubts or weighed down by uncertainties; for all the unemployed: that the Lord may sustain their hope. Let us pray to the Lord.



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R: Lord, grant us a loving faith.

That the Lord may help us to serve him, not out of a sense of duty like slaves, but out of love, as befits his sons and daughters. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, grant us a loving faith.

Communion Reflection

Walter Ciszek SJ spent fifteen years in forced-labour camps in Siberia. Through all those years he belonged to the lowest brigades doing the dirtiest work - digging foundations by hand, carving out with pick and shovel long sewer trenches through the frozen ground, loading and unloading with bare hands the heavy construction materials, crawling in damp, dark mines, where death was always only one careless step away.

What kept him going?

He says:

**Men died in the camp,
especially when they gave up hope.
But I trusted in God,
and so I never felt abandoned or without hope.
I owe my survival to my faith in God.'**

Of all the things we can give another person

**The greatest is trust
Lord, increase our faith in you,
so that we may trust you more fully
in all the happenings of our lives,
great and small, bitter and sweet.**