



Liturgy Cycle C

Thirty-Second Sunday Of The Year Traveling In Hope

Introduction

The liturgy of today is dominated by the idea of an afterlife. This belief should light up our lives with meaning and hope. Often, however, it is but a pale and shadowy thing, shedding no more light than a crescent moon. Besides, we are so concerned with this life that we do not really desire or seek the life that is to come. Our hope of a better life to come rests, not on anything human, but on the word and the power of Christ.

First Reading (2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14)

This tells (in part) the story of the martyrdom of a mother and her seven sons. They drew their strength and their hope from their faith in the resurrection of the just.

Second Reading (2 Thessalonians 2:16-3:5)

Paul prays for the Thessalonians that God will comfort and strengthen them so that they may remain steadfast in the pursuit of goodness.

Gospel (Luke 20:27-38)

The Sadducees, who didn't believe in an afterlife, ask Jesus a question. The aim of the question is to ridicule the idea of bodily resurrection from the dead.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray that God may help us, not only to be firm in our belief in eternal life, but to desire it ardently as the goal that will fulfil all our hopes and longings.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church; that through the faith of its members it may be a beacon of hope for the entire world. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all of mankind: that those who live without hope and who do not know Christ may come to believe in the eternal life he promised. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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Christ dried the tears of Martha and Mary by raising their brother Lazarus from the dead: may he comfort all those who mourn the death of a loved one. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

That we may grow in the knowledge and love of Christ during our life on earth, so that we may come to see our death for what it is—a joyful encounter with him. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Communion Reflection

Do not pursue what is illusory - property and position.

Live with a steady superiority over life.

**Don't be afraid of misfortune,
and do not yearn after happiness;**

it is, after all, all the same:

the bitter doesn't last for ever,

and the sweet never fills the cup to overflowing.

**It is enough that you don't freeze in the cold,
and if thirst and hunger don't claw at your insides.**

If your back isn't broken,

if your feet can walk,

if both arms can bend,

if both eyes can see.

and if both ears can hear, then whom should you envy?

And why?

Our envy of others devours us most of all.

Rub your eyes and purify your heart -

and prize above all else in the world

those who love you and who wish you well.

Do not hurt them or scold them,

and never part from any of them in anger;

after all, you simply do not know

but it might be your last act,

and that will be how you are imprinted in their memory.