



Liturgy Cycle C

Ninth Sunday Of The Year

Faith Like This

Introduction

Our faith is the most precious thing we have, though we may not always appreciate this. Faith is to us what a lamp is to a person travelling in darkness. However, most of us are aware that our faith is not as strong or deep or alive as it might be. We should not be afraid to admit this. It is not easy to live by faith. Let us turn to God and ask him to deepen our faith in his love for us and in the value of our lives.

Lord, where the darkness of doubt reigns you let the light of, faith shine.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, where the darkness of despair reigns you let the light of hope shine. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, where the darkness of hate reigns you let the light of love shine.
Lord, have mercy.

First Reading (1 Kings 8:41-43)

Solomon urges the people to welcome all those foreigners who come to worship at the Lord's Temple. It is a reminder to them that salvation was not something intended for them alone but for all nations.

Second Reading (Gal 1:1-2, 6-10)

Paul warns the Galatians against trouble-makers, that is, people who preach a different version of the Gospel to that which he originally brought to them.

Gospel (Luke 7:1-10)

This relates the extraordinary faith shown in Jesus by a Roman army officer.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to Christ that he may strengthen and deepen our faith in him so that it may transform our lives.

R: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.

For all Christians: that they may bear witness to their faith in Christ and his Gospel, not just with their words but with their lives. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.



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For all those who believe in and work for a world of justice and peace: that the Lord may support them in their vision and strengthen them in their struggles. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.

For those with weak faith or no faith: that the light of Christ may illumine their minds and hearts. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.

That the Lord may send us his Spirit to make us strong in faith and active in good works. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, I believe; help my unbelief.

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, grant that what we have said with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and practise in our lives. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Communion Reflection

**Look, God, I've never spoken to you before,
but now I just want to say 'hello'.
They told me you didn't exist,
and like a fool I believed them.**

**Last night I looked up at the sky from a shell hole.
When I saw the beauty of the stars,
and thought how big the universe is,
I knew that they were telling me a lie.**

**I wonder if you will shake hands with me when we meet?
Somehow I feel you will understand all my failures.
Strange how I had to come to this horrible place
to get to know you.
What was I doing before this?**

**There isn't much more to say,
but I'm sure glad I got to know you today.
I feel the zero hour will soon be here.
This is going to be a horrible fight.
Who knows but I may come to your house tonight.**

**I'm crying! Fancy me crying!
I never thought this could happen to me.
I have to go now.
Strange, since I met you, I'm no longer afraid to die.**