

Affirmation Prayer...

The Lord sets us free. Let us adore him!

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia!

Hymn **Meter: LM**

Grant, Lord, that we, your servants all,
Saved by your tide of cleansing Blood,
No more 'neath sin's dominion fall
Nor fear the thought of death's dark flood!
Your varied love each spirit bless,
The humble cheer, the proud control;
Check in each heart its vain excess,
But raise the meek and humble soul.
This favor, Father, we entreat;
This blessing, grant, eternal Son
And Holy Spirit, Paraclete,
Both now and while the ages run.

Psalm **105 1, 12-21**

As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.
(Gal 4:6-7)

We are either servants of God or slaves of evil. There is no middle ground. This does not mean that as servants of Christ we are without fault, but that we have allied ourselves with him and accepted his redemption. Let us not be ashamed to be servants of Christ, for in his love he has purchased us at a great price.
(cf. 1 Cor 7:23)

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,
make known his deeds among the peoples.
When they were few in number,
a handful of strangers in the land,
when they wandered from country to country,
from one kingdom and nation to another,
he allowed no one to oppress them;
he admonished kings on their account:
"Do not touch those I have anointed;
do no harm to any of my prophets."
But he called down a famine on the land;
he broke the staff that supported them.
He had sent a man before them,
Joseph, sold as a slave.
His feet were put in chains,
his neck was bound with iron,
until what he said came to pass
and the word of the Lord proved him true.
Then the king sent and released him;
the ruler of the peoples set him free,
making him master of his house
and ruler of all he possessed.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Word of God **Galatians 3:26-29**

Through faith you are all children of God in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor

free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendant, heirs according to the promise.

You have been purchased at a price. Do not become slaves to human beings. (1 Cor 7:23)

Canticle of Zechariah

Jesus took the form of a slave, / coming in human likeness. (cf. Phil 2:7)

All: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham: to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Intercessions

We seek the freedom that comes from being a servant of Christ, and so we pray:

R/ Lord, set us free.

When we become trapped in sinful ways, and do not see the way out: **R/**

When we have strayed from the path, and become ensnared in our own self-will: **R/**

When we become tepid, and forget your commands: **R/**

Personal intentions

All: Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Lord our God, you give the gift of freedom to each one of your sons and daughters. Grant that we may accept this gift with joy. Let us not fall into the snares of evil but always walk in the way of your freedom. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, September 4, 2022
Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Men of St. Joseph Prayer

All: St. Joseph, help me to be like you. Help me to be obedient to the teachings of the Church and faithful to God's commands. Help me to patiently endure my cross each day. Let me be a model of holiness and a pillar of virtue. I solemnly promise to embrace God's will and I accept the challenge to work tirelessly for my family's salvation. Be my guide and companion on this journey. St. Joseph, terror of demons, pray for us!

*Prayer for the text used with permission
of Magnificat*

Reading 1 **Wisdom 9:13-18b**

What man indeed can know the intentions of God? Who can divine the will of the Lord? The reasonings of mortals are unsure and our intentions unstable; for a perishable body presses down the soul, and this tent of clay weighs down the teeming mind. It is hard enough for us to work out what is on earth, laborious to know what lies within our reach; who, then, can discover what is in the heavens? As for your intention, who could have learnt it, had you not granted Wisdom and sent your holy spirit from above? Thus have the paths of those on earth been straightened and men been taught what pleases you, and saved, by Wisdom.

Reading 2 **Philemon 9-10, 12-17**

This is Paul writing, an old man now and, what is more, still a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for a child of mine, whose father I became while wearing these chains: I mean Onesimus. I am sending him back to you, and with him – I could say – a part of my own self. I should have liked to keep him with me; he could have been a substitute for you, to help me while I am in the chains that the Good News has brought me. However, I did not want to do anything without your consent; it would have been forcing your act of kindness, which should be spontaneous. I know you have been deprived of Onesimus for a time, but it was only so that you could have him back for ever, not as a slave any more, but something much better than a slave, a dear brother; especially dear to me, but how much more to you, as a blood-brother as well as a brother in the Lord. So if all that we have in common means anything to you, welcome him as you would me.

Gospel **Luke 14:25-33**

Great crowds accompanied Jesus on his way and he turned and spoke to them. 'If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.

'And indeed, which of you here, intending to build a tower, would not first sit down and work out the cost to see if he had enough to complete it? Otherwise, if he laid the foundation and then found himself unable to finish the work, the onlookers would all start making fun of him and saying, "Here is a man who started to build and was unable to finish." Or again, what king marching to war against another king would not first sit down and consider whether with ten thousand men he could stand up to the other who advanced against him with twenty thousand? If not, then while the other king was still a long way off, he would send envoys to sue for peace. So in the same way, none of you can be my disciple unless he gives up all his possessions.'