



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Children's Liturgy of the Word Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

Today's readings emphasize that prayer is an act of faith in God's providence. When Moses prayed with raised hands during Israel's battle, the people succeeded; when he grew weary, others supported him. This illustrates the cooperation between divine power and human perseverance, showing that God works through our prayers, endurance, and the support we receive from others.

The Gospel tells the story of a persistent widow who seeks justice, showing that faithful prayer is about trusting God's providence rather than trying to change His will. We continue to pray because we believe God is always present and active, even when answers come slowly or unexpectedly. Jesus assures us that our Father hears those who cry out day and night.

Saint Paul highlights the power of Scripture as "inspired by God and useful for teaching, refutation, correction, and training in righteousness." The Word of God enriches our prayer life, helping our hearts align with Christ's. In Scripture, we find strength to remain faithful and assurance that His providence never fails.

Faithful prayer, then, is not only persistence—it is trust. It is allowing God's living Word to shape our desires, steady our hope, and lift our hearts to Him again and again. Through such prayer, we come to see that even in silence, God's providence is at work, weaving all things together for our good.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Exodus 17.8-13

Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed.

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim.

Moses said to Joshua,

"Choose some men for us and go out, fight with Amalek.

Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill
with the staff of God in my hand."

So Joshua did as Moses told him,
and fought with Amalek,

while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

Whenever Moses held up his hands, Israel prevailed;
and whenever he lowered his hands, Amalek prevailed.

But Moses' hands grew weary;
so they took a stone and put it under him,
and he sat on it.

Aaron and Hur held up his hands,
one on one side, and the other on the other side;
so his hands were steady until the sun set.
And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. R.

The Lord will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.
He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep. R.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night. R.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.
The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore. R.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.2

*Ponder the scriptures,
and thus become a skilled worker, ready for any good work.*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Beloved:

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed,
knowing from whom you learned it,
and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings
that are able to instruct you for salvation
through faith in Christ Jesus.

All scripture is inspired by God
and is useful for teaching,
for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient,
equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus,
who is to judge the living and the dead,
and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,

I solemnly urge you:

proclaim the message;
be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable;
convince, rebuke, and encourage,
with the utmost patience in teaching.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

*God will grant justice to his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told the disciples a parable about their need to pray always
and not to lose heart.

He said,

"In a certain city there was a judge
who neither feared God nor had respect for any human being.

In that city there was a widow
who kept coming to him and saying,

'Grant me justice against my opponent.'

"For a while the judge refused;

but later he said to himself,

'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone,
yet because this widow keeps bothering me,

I will grant her justice,

so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"

And the Lord said,

"Listen to what the unjust judge says.

Will not God grant justice to his chosen ones
who cry to him day and night?

Will he delay long in helping them?

I tell you, God will quickly grant justice to them.

"And yet, when the Son of Man comes,
will he find faith on earth?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Background

Exodus 17:8-13 The Israelites have crossed the Red Sea and are journeying through the desert. Amalek, a nomadic tribe, attacks the vulnerable community at Rephidim, testing Israel's faith in the newly revealed God. Moses commands Joshua to lead the battle while he, together with Aaron and Hur, ascends the hill to hold up the "staff of God" — the rod that had performed the miracles at the sea. The physical act of lifting the hands becomes a visible sign of dependence on divine assistance. Aaron and Hur's support, steadying Moses' arms, prefigures the communal nature of Christian prayer: the faithful intercede for one another, sustaining one another in worship.

Psalms 121 expresses the pilgrim's confidence that help comes not from earthly powers but from the Lord, who "made heaven and earth." The psalmist lifts his eyes to the hills, a metaphor for the distant, sometimes inscrutable places where God's providence dwells, and then declares that the Lord is the true keeper who never slumbers.

2 Timothy 3:14-4:2 urges Timothy to remain steadfast in the teachings he received "from childhood." He emphasizes that "All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness." This concise theology of the Word underlines the Catholic belief that Sacred Scripture, guided by the Holy Spirit, is the normative source for doctrine and moral life.

Luke 18:1-8 The parable of the widow and the unjust judge illustrates the power of persistent prayer. The widow's determination represents the Church's trust that God hears our pleas, even in silence. The unjust judge, symbolizing human indifference, ultimately responds to her requests, highlighting that a just and loving God is even more responsive. The parable ends with the challenging question, "When the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?" This serves as a call for believers to maintain an active faith. Overall, prayer reflects the Church's role in interceding for the marginalized, much like the widow's hopeful plea.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Dismissal

Priest: Dear children, today we remember how important it is to keep praying and never give up. God always listens to us, even when we have to wait for His answer. Go with your leaders and listen to God's word.

When most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

Let us pray:

Pause for 5 – 10 seconds

Loving God, send your Holy Spirit upon us and help us listen to your Word.

Amen.

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

ADAPTED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

FIRST READING

Exodus 17.8-13

Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed.

A reading from the book of Exodus.

When the Israelites fought the Amalekites,

Moses stood on a hill with God's staff.

Whenever he lifted his hands,

the people won.

When his hands fell, the enemy prevailed.

Aaron and Hur helped him by holding up his hands until sunset.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98.1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4

R. Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the hills—
where will my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. R.

The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is beside you. R.

The Lord will keep you from all evil;
He will keep you throughout life.
The Lord will keep you
from this time on and forevermore. R.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3.14 - 4.2

*Ponder the scriptures,
and thus become a skilled worker, ready for any good work.*

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

St. Paul says:

Follow what you have learned
through faith in Christ Jesus.

God writes all scripture.

I solemnly urge you:

be persistent
and patient with God.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

*God will grant justice to his chosen ones
who call out to him day and night.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus told His friends a story to teach them
that they should always pray and never give up.

He said,

"There was a judge
who did not care about God or other people.

In that city there was a widow
who kept coming to him and saying,

'Grant me justice.'

"For a while the judge refused;
but later he said to himself,
'Even though I don't care about God or people,
yet because this widow keeps bothering me,
I will grant her what she wants,
so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'"

Jesus said,

"If even an unjust judge listens to someone who keeps asking
How much more will God listen to those
who pray to Him every day and night?

The gospel of the Lord.

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

What did you hear?

Today, Jesus tells a story about a woman who never gave up. He wants us to know that God always listen to our prayers, even when it feels like He is not listening.

Have you ever prayed for something and felt like God wasn't listening?

What did you do — did you stop praying, or did you keep talking to God?

Prayer is about love and trust, not about saying the same words over and over until God gives us what we want. When we pray, we are spending time with God — just like when you spend time with your best friend or your parents. God always wants to hear from you!

Sometimes, when we pray, we want things to happen right away — like when we ask for a good mark on a test, for someone to get better, or for a problem to go away. But sometimes, God's answer comes later... or in a way we don't expect.

That doesn't mean He didn't hear us. It means He knows the best time and the best way to help us.

Can you think of a time when something good happened after you prayed and waited?

What are some ways we can pray every day — not just at church?

(Encourage answers like: before meals, before bed, when we wake up, when we see something beautiful, or when we need help.)

There once was a little boy named Noah who prayed every night for his dad to find a new job. For weeks, nothing seemed to happen, but Noah didn't stop praying. One day, his dad came home smiling — he had just been hired for a job that was even better than the one he had lost! Noah realized that God had been listening all along; it just took time for the plan to unfold.

That's what Jesus is teaching us: don't give up on prayer. God never forgets you.

Remember:

- God always listens — even when we feel alone.
- Prayer helps us grow closer to God every day.
- We can talk to God anywhere, anytime.
- Never stop praying — even when it's hard.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: we pray. All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: God always listens to us when we pray. Let us offer our prayers to God with faith and love. Our response will be: Thank you, Lord.

1. For the Church: that we may always be a people of prayer who trust in God's love. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
2. For our parents, teachers and everyone who helps us grow in faith. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
3. For people who are sick, sad, or alone: that they may feel God's comfort and care. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
4. For peace in the world and in our families: that we may be people who are kind and forgiving. We pray to the Lord. All: Thank you, Lord.
5. The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

Leader: Loving God, hear our prayers. Help us to trust in You and to keep praying with faith and joy. Through Christ our Lord. All: Amen.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and think about what they have heard and are now doing. Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Liturgy adapted for Children.

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Acknowledgments:

LECTIONARY SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops 2500 Don Reid Drive Ottawa, ON K1H 2J2