

You died, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.

O Fountain of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I

mercy on us an hole world. (3 t



Prayer of St. Gertrude the

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

Gertrude the Great was born in Germany in 1263. She was a Benedictine Nun, and meditated on the Passion



Abortion isn't a lesser evil, it's a crime. Taking one life to save another, that's what the Mafia does. It's a crime. It's an absolute evil. **Pope Francis.**

We dedicate this website to the Generous Heart of Mother Mary



Daily Highlights, Mass Readings, Daily Saints, Prayers.

Wednesday of the Twenty-sixth week in Ordinary Time, Volume 168, October 04, 2023.

Today's Bible Readings

Latin Rite 1st Reading: Neh 2:1-8

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

Gospel: 1k 9:57-62

Syro-Malabar Rite 1st Reading:

2 Thessalonians 3:6-12

Gospel:

Luke 9:1-6

Svro-Malankara Rite 1st Reading: Galatians 6:14-17

Gospel:

Matthew 11: 25-30

Meditation: All In, Never Waver

As Jesus and his disciples were proceeding on their journey, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." Luke 9:57–58

At first, this appears to be an unusual response from our Lord. This person appeared to be committing himself to follow Jesus wherever Jesus led. But rather than complimenting the would-be follower, Jesus indicates that there is nowhere for this man to follow Him. Instead, he would have to follow Him into the unknown. Why would Jesus say this? Did He not want the man to follow Him?

One thing that this passage teaches us is that Jesus was able to read the souls and the intentions of those whom He encountered. Apparently, what the man said was not exactly his true intention. In commenting upon this passage, several Church Fathers point out that the man said what he said not out of a deep desire to follow Christ, but so that he would look good in the eyes of those around Jesus. Jesus knew his true intention, and therefore told the man that if he wanted to follow Him, he would have to follow Him into the unknown. Jesus then spoke to two others about following Him, and each time He challenged them to follow Him without reservation. The call to follow our Lord is absolute. We cannot halfheartedly follow Him. We cannot follow Him for selfish reasons. The choice to follow our Lord begins with Him calling to us interiorly. We must hear His clear voice and invitation. The invitation we will receive will be one that asks everything of us. Jesus will never call us to give half of our lives to Him, or even most of our lives to Him. His call is one that demands everything. By demanding everything from us, our Lord is actually giving everything to us. We are only made whole when we give everything to Him and follow Him without reserve. This is the starting point. The choice to follow Jesus will also be done in a certain secrecy. It's not that we try to hide our choice to follow Him; rather, we must follow Him with the right intentions. We do not do so because we want others to praise us, admire us, or look up to us. We do not do so to boost our spiritual ego. We follow Him because we have heard Him call and have chosen to respond to that call in the way we are called. Therefore, every choice to follow Jesus must begin in the secrecy of our interior life of prayer. Once our commitment is firmly established, it will often become visible to others, but that must never be a motivating factor. Once we are firmly committed to follow Christ, there must be no turning back. Jesus concludes today's Gospel by saying, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God." The choice to follow Christ requires a death to certain things in our lives. As our journey moves forward, there will be temptations to return to our old ways. We will remember the delights of past sins, feel the draw to other paths, and might even experience the demand of absolute fidelity to be too much. These experiences must be continuously rejected as temptations and lies. We must never look back to what we gave up and must always look forward to that which our Lord is calling us. Secondguessing our choice to follow Jesus will be a very real temptation at times; therefore, our resolve must never waver.

Reflect, today, upon the depth of your own decision to follow Jesus. First, consider whether or not you have heard this radical and absolute call echo within the depths of your soul. Only there, in the secrecy of your interior life, will you hear God speak. Second, consider your motivations for following Jesus. Do you do so to look good in the eyes of others? Or do you do so out of love of God? Third, consider whether your commitment is total. It is not enough to give most of your life to Christ; He demands everything. Finally, ponder also the fact that there will be many temptations along the way to return to your former sinful way of life. Allow your resolve to eliminate those temptations and continuously recommit yourself to the journey to which you have been called. My demanding Lord, You have called me to a radical commitment of my entire life to follow You. I hear Your voice and choose to say "yes" to Your invitation. Please free me from all selfish motives in life, and give me the resolve I need to follow You wherever You lead. Jesus, I trust in You.

add them into our website. The Bible in one vear:

profitable, service oriented website, This site belongs to each and every Christian who view this website. This is our 23rd Year of Service on the

with the help of many of the Christian Brothers are World

October 01 Jdth 14-16, Hab 3, Gal 3:1-15, Ps 109:20-27 02 Esther 11:2–12:6, Esther 1, Zeph 1, Gal 3:16–29, Ps 109:28-31 03 Esther 2:1-3:13, Esther 13:1–7, Esther 3:14–15, Zeph 2–3, Gal 4, Ps 110 04 Esther 4, Esther 13:8-15:16, Haggai 1, Gal 5, Ps 111 05 Esther 5-7, Haggai 2, Gal 6, Ps 112:1-6 06 Esther 8:1–12, Esther 16, Esther 8:13–17, Zech 1, Eph 1, Ps 112:7–10 07 Esther 9:1–11:1, Zech 2, Eph 2, Ps 113 08 Job 1–3, Zech 3–4, Eph 3, Ps 114 09 Job 4-5, Zech 5, Eph 4:1-20, Ps 115:1-7 10 Job 6-7, Zech 6-7, Eph 4:21–32, Ps 115:8–14 11 Job 8–9, Zech 8, Eph 5, Ps 115:15-18 12 Job 10-11, Zech 9, Eph 6, Ps 116:1–10 13 Job 12–13, Zech 10, Phil 1:1-18, Ps 116:11-19 14 Job 14-15, Zech 11, Phil 1:19-30, Ps 117 15 Job 16-17, Zech 12-13, Phil 2, Ps 118:1-10 16 Job 18-19, Zech 14, Phil 3, Ps 118:11-17 17 Job 20, Mal 1–2, Phil 4, Ps 118:18–24 18 Job 21– 22, Mal 3, Col 1, Ps 118:25-29 19 Job 23-25, Mal 4, Col 2, Ps 119:1-10 20 Job 26-27, 1 Macc 1:1-28, Col 3:1-14, Ps 119:11-17 21 Job 28-29, 1 Macc 1:29-48, Col 3:15-4:18, Ps 119:18-24 22 Job 30-31, 1 Macc 1:49-64, 1 Thess 1, Ps 119:25-31 23 Job 32, 1 Macc 2:1-25, 1 Thess 2-3, Ps 119:32-38 24 Job 33-34, 1 Macc 2:26-45, 1 Thess 4, Ps 119:39-45 25 Job 35-36, 1 Macc 2:46-70, 1 Thess 5, Ps 119:46-52 26 Job 37, 1 Macc 3:1-15, 2 Thess 1, Ps 119:53-59 27 Job 38-39, 1 Macc 3:16-35, 2 Thess 2, Ps 119:60-66 28 Job 40, 1 Macc 3:36-60, 2 Thess 3, Ps 119:67-73 30 Prov 1-2, 1 Macc 4:17-36, 1 Tim 3, Ps 119:81-87 31 Prov 3-4, 1 Macc 4:37-61, 1 Tim 4, Ps 119:88-94

Resources

Importance of the Mass Mystical Stigmata What is Charismatic Renewal? The Real Meaning of **Christmas**

Why should I Confess?

Gallery

<u>Articles</u> **Daily Reflections** E-books Novena **Prayers Saints** Songs **Testimonials**

Online Counseling

Live Channels

1st Reading: Neh 2:1-8

In the month Nisan of the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, when the wine was in my charge, I took some and offered it to the king. As I had never before been sad in his presence, the king asked me, "Why do you look sad? If you are not sick, you must be sad at heart." Though I was seized with great fear, I answered the king: "May the king live forever! How could I not look sad when the city where my ancestors are buried lies in ruins, and its gates have been eaten out by fire?" The king asked me, "What is it, then, that you wish?" I prayed to the God of heaven and then answered the king: "If it please the king, and if your servant is deserving of your favor, send me to Judah, to the city of my ancestors' graves, to rebuild it." Then the king, and the queen seated beside him, asked me how long my journey would take and when I would return. I set a date that was acceptable to him, and the king agreed that I might go. I asked the king further: "If it please the king, let letters be given to me for the governors of West-of-Euphrates, that they may afford me safe-conduct until I arrive in Judah; also a letter for Asaph, the keeper of the royal park, that he may give me wood for timbering the gates of the temple-citadel and for the city wall and the house that I shall occupy." The king granted my requests, for the favoring hand of my God was upon me.

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R. (6ab) Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

R. Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!

Though there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

R. Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

R. Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

R. Let my tongue be silenced if I ever forget you!

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia. I consider all things so much rubbish that I may gain Christ and be found in him. R. Alleluia.

Gospel: Lk 9:57-62

As Jesus and his disciples were proceeding on their journey, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus answered him, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." And to another he said, "Follow me." But he replied, "Lord, let me go first and bury my father." But he answered him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the Kingdom of God." And another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home." Jesus answered him, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the Kingdom of God."

Today's Saints

Saint Francis of Assisi

Also known as Francis Bernardone, il Poverello

Son of Pietro Bernadone, a rich cloth merchant. Though he had a good education and became part of his father's business, he also had a somewhat misspent youth. Street brawler and some-time soldier. Captured during a conflict between Assisi and Perugia, Italy, he spent over a year as a prisoner of war. During this time he had a conversion experience, including a reported message from Christ calling him to leave this worldly life. Upon release, Francis began taking his faith seriously. He took the Gospels as the rule of his life, Jesus Christ as his literal example. He dressed in rough clothes, begged for his sustenance, and preached purity and peace. His family disapproved, and his father disinherited him; Francis formally renounced his wealth and inheritance. He visited hospitals, served the sick, preached in the streets, and took all men and women as siblings. He began to attract followers in 1209, and with papal blessing, founded the Franciscans based on a simple statment by Jesus: "Leave all and follow me." In 1212 Clare of Assisi became his spiritual student, which led to the founding of the Poor Clares. Visited and preached to the Saracens. Composed songs and hymns to God and nature. Lived with animals, worked with his hands, cared for lepers, cleaned churches, and sent food to thieves. In 1221 he resigned direction of the Franciscans. While in meditation on Mount Alvernia in the Apennines in September 1224, Francis received the stigmata, which periodically bled during the remaining two years of his life. This miracle has a separate memorial on 17 September. In the Middle Ages people who believed to be possessed by Beelzebub especially called upon the intercession of Saint Francis, the theory being that he was the demon's opposite number in heaven.

Born: 1181 at Assisi, Umbria, Italy as Francis Bernardone

Died: 4 October 1226 at Portiuncula, Italy of natural causes, relics in Assisi, Italy

Canonized: 16 July 1228 by Pope Gregory IX

Patronage: against dying alone, against fire, animal welfare societies, animals, birds, ecologists, ecology, environment, environmentalism, environmentalists, families, lace makers, lace workers, merchants, needle workers, peace, tapestry workers, zoos, Italy, Colorado, Catholic Action, Franciscan Order, 10 dioceses, 10 cities.



Also known as Amon the Anchorite, Ammonius, Amun

Wealthy, married layman. He and his wife lived as brother and sister for 18 years, then each entered religious life. Ammon was one of the earliest and greatest desert monks, living in a cell on Mount Nitria. His reputation for holiness spread, and he attracted over 4,000 spiritual students. Known for his extraordinary fasts, he ate only once every three or four days.

Born: c.286 in Mariotis, Egypt

Died: c.348 in Scetis, Egypt of natural causes, a brother monk named Anthony saw Ammon's soul ascend to heaven from his own cell, 13 miles away.



Saint Petronius of Bologna

Also known as Petronius Vescovo Petronius the Bishops Petronio

Son of a Praetorian Prefect in Gaul, and may have been a Roman official himself. Pilgrim to the Holy Lands and the ascetics in Palestine in his youth. Bishop of Bologna, Italy. Built the monastery of Saint Stephen in Bologna; it was modeled on the holy places of Jerusalem. A fictional version of his life was popular in the Middle Ages.

Died: c.445 of natural causes

Patronage: Bologna, Italy, archdiocese of Bologna, Italy.





