

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 and whole 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 absolute evil. **Pope Francis.** It's an

#### We dedicate this website to the Generous Heart of Mother Mary



Daily Highlights, Mass Readings, Daily Saints, Prayers.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Volume 169, November 19, 2023.

Today's Bible Readings

**Latin Rite** 1st Reading:

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Thes

Gospel: Mt 25:14-30

Syro-Malabar Rite 1st Reading: Numbers 9:15-18

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Isaiah 54:1-10 3rd Reading:

Hebrews 9:5-15

Gospel:

John 2:13-22

# Meditation: The Master Will Settle His Account with Them

What can economics and productivity teach us about the kingdom of heaven? Jesus' story about a businessman who leaves town and entrusts his money with his workers made perfect sense to his audience. Wealthy merchants and businessmen often had to travel abroad and leave the business to others to handle while they were gone.

Why did Jesus tell this story and what can it teach us? Most importantly it tells us something about how God deals with us, his disciples and servants. The parable speaks first of the Master's trust in his servants. While he goes away he leaves them with his money to use as they think best. While there were no strings attached, this was obviously a test to see if the Master's workers would be industrious and reliable in their use of the money entrusted to them. The master rewards those who are industrious and faithful and he punishes those who sit by idly and who do nothing with his

The essence of the parable seems to lie in the servants' conception of responsibility. Each servant entrusted with the master's money was faithful up to a certain point. The servant who buried the master's money was irresponsible. One can bury seeds in the ground and expect them to become productive because they obey natural laws. Coins, however, do not obey natural laws. They obey economic laws and become productive in circulation. The master expected his servants to be productive in the use of his money.

God rewards those who use their gifts for serving him and the good of others

What do coins and the law of economics have to do with the kingdom of God? The Lord entrusts the subjects of his kingdom with gifts and graces and he gives his subjects the freedom to use them as they think best. With each gift and talent, God gives sufficient means (grace and wisdom) for using them in a fitting way. As the parable of the talents shows, God abhors indifference and an attitude that says it's not worth trying. God honors those who use their talents and gifts for doing good. Those who are faithful with even a little are entrusted with more! But those who neglect or squander what God has entrusted to them will lose what they have.

There is an important lesson here for us. No one can stand still for long in the Christian life. We either get more or we lose what we have. We either advance towards God or we slip back. Do you seek to serve God with the gifts, talents, and graces he has given to you?

Lord Jesus, be the ruler of my heart and thoughts, be the king of my home and relationships, and be the master of my work and service. Help me to make good use of the gifts, talents, time, and resources you give me for your glory and your kingdom.

# 1st Reading: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and works with loving hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward for her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

# Responsorial Psalm: Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

# R. (cf. 1a) Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are you who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways! For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork; blessed shall you be, and favored.

# R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home; Your children like olive plants around your table.

#### R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. The LORD bless you from Zion: may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

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 area World add them into our website.

#### The Bible in one vear: November

Svro-Malankara Rite

1st Reading:

Luke 1:1-17

Luke 1:5-25

Gospel:

01 Prov 5-6, 1 Macc 5:1-15, 1 Tim 5, Ps 119:95–101 02 Prov 7, 1 Macc 5:16–35, 1 Tim 6, Ps 119:102–108 03 Prov 8–9, 1 Macc 5:36-55, 2 Tim 1, Ps 119:109-116 04 Prov 10, 1 Macc 5:56-68, 2 Tim 2, Ps 119:117-123 05 Prov 11-12, 1 Macc 6:1–28, 2 Tim 3, Ps 119:124–130 06 Prov 13–14, 1 Macc 6:29–48, 2 Tim 4, Ps 119:131–137 07 Prov 15, 1 Macc 6:49–63, Titus 1–2, Ps 119:138–144 08 Prov 16–17, 1 Macc 7:1–25, Titus 3, Ps 119:145–151 09 Prov 18–19, 1 Macc 7:26–50, Philem, Ps 119:152-158 10 Prov 20, 1 Macc 8:1–15, Heb 1–2, Ps 119:159–165 11 Prov 21–22, 1 Macc 8:16–32, Heb 3, Ps 119:166-172 12 Prov 23, 1 Macc 9:1-24, Heb 4, Ps 119:173–176 13 Prov 24–25, 1 Macc 9:25–44, Heb 5–6, Ps 120 14 Prov 26–27, 1 Macc 9:45-73, Heb 7:1-12, Ps 121 15 Prov 28, 1 Macc 10:1–11, Heb 7:13–28, Ps 122 16 Prov 29–30, 1 Macc 10:12–31, Heb 8:1–9:15, Ps 123 17 Prov 31, 1 Macc 10:32–51, Heb 9:16– 28, Ps 124 18 Eccles 1–3, 1 Macc 10:52–72, Heb 10, Ps 125 19 Eccles 4–6, 1 Macc 10:73–89, Heb 11:1–13, Ps 126 20 Eccles 7–8, 1 Macc 11:1–23, Heb 11:14–40, Ps 127 21 Eccles 9–12, 1 Macc 11:24-43, Heb 12:1-17, Ps 128 22 Song 1-2, 1 Macc 11:44-63, Heb 12:18-29, Ps 129 23 Song 3-6, 1 Macc 11:64-74, Heb 13, Ps 130:title-4 24 Song 7-8, 1 Macc 12:1–29, James 1, Ps 130:5–131:3 25 Wisd of Sol 1–3, 1 Macc 12:30–53, James 2, Ps 132:title–5 26 Wisd of Sol 4–6, 1 Macc 13:1–17, James 3, Ps 132:6–12 27 Wisd of Sol 7, 1 Macc 13:18–37, James 4, Ps 132:13–18 28 Wisd of Sol 8–10, 1 Macc 13:38–53, James 5, Ps 133– 134 29 Wisd of Sol 11–12, 1 Macc 14:1–24, 1 Pet 1, Ps 135:1–7 30 Wisd of Sol 13–14, 1 Macc 14:25-49, 1 Pet 2, Ps 135:8-14

# Resources

Importance of the Mass

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Renewal? The Real Meaning of **Christmas** 

Why should I Confess?

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#### R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

#### 2nd Reading: 1 Thes 5:1-6

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters, you have no need for anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night. When people are saying, "Peace and security, " then sudden disaster comes upon them, like labor pains upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that day to overtake you like a thief. For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and sober.

#### Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia. Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me bears much fruit. R. Alleluia.

#### Gospel: Mt 25:14-30

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one-- to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth."



#### Saint Mechtilde of Helfta

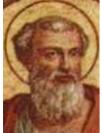
Also known as Mechtilde of Hackeborn-Wippra, Mechtilde of Hackenborn, Mechtilde of Magdaburg, Mathilda, Mathildis, Matilda, Maud, Mechtild, Mechtildis

Additional Memorial 26 February in some Benedictine and Cistercian monasteries

Born to a pious, powerful Thuringian noble family; her older sister was a nun. Convent-educated from age seven, Mechtilde became a nun at Rodersdorf, Switzerland. She moved to the Helfta monastery in 1258 where her sister served as abbess. Teacher and choir director at the convent school at Helfta. Visionary and mystic. Novice mistress for Saint Gertrude the Great who wrote The Book of Special Grace about Mechtilde's teachings; she was initially terrified that the book might cause trouble, but Christ appeared to her in prayer and told her not to worry. She became a much sought spiritual advisor to her sister nuns, laity and learned Dominicans. May have been the inspiration for the character Matelda in Dante's Purgatorio.

Born: c.1241 at her family's castle of Helfta near Eisleben, Saxony, Germany

**Died:** 19 November 1298 at Helfta monastery of natural causes **Patronage:** against blindess (one well-known miracle was healing the blindness of a nun).



## **Pope Saint Pontian**

Also known as Pontianus

Son of Calpurnius. Chosen 18th pope in 230. Ended the schism of Hippolytus and reconciled the schismatics with the Church. Exiled with Saint Hippolytus by emperor Maximinus Thrax to Sardinia and sentenced to work in the mines, he abdicated the papacy on 28 September 235 so a new man could lead the Church.

Born: at Rome, Italy

**Papal Ascension:** 21 July 230, abdicated on 28 September 235

Died: 235 at Sardinia from the terrible treatment received in the mines, remains brought to Rome, Italy by Pope

Saint Fabian and buried in the catacomb of Callistus

Patronage: Montaldo Scarampi, Italy.



# **Saint Barlaam of Antioch**

Uneducated Christian peasant. Jailed for his faith during the persecution of Diocletian. Brought to trial in 304, he was scourged, racked, tortured, and ordered to deny his faith; he refused. In an effort to make it look as though Barlaam were making an incense offering to an idol, the judge had the prisoner's hand covered in incense, then held over the coals of a brazier. He thought that when Barlaam flinched from the pain, the incense would fall in the fire, he could declare that Barlaam had made sacrifice, and he could be turned loose as an example. Instead, Barlaam never flinched. When his entire hand had burned off, the judge gave up and had him murdered. Martyr.

Born: Antioch

**Died:** 304 at Caesarea, Cappadocia.



