

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

Psalm

Jesus said, 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock,
for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom.'

Gospel

Let us pray that through us,
others may find the way to life in Christ.
Father, touch our hearts,
help them grow towards the life you have promised.
Touch our lives,
make them signs of your love for all people.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's readings if you want to reflect further:
Wisdom 18: 6–9; Ps. 32 (33); Hebrews 11: 1–2.8–19; Luke 12: 32–48

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Happy are
the people
the Lord
has chosen
as his own!

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ST. BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C, 7th August 2022

Jesus said, 'For where your treasure is,
there will be your heart also'.

Today's readings remind us that God has chosen us all as his own. They also highlight the importance of our humble faith and trust in God, who calls us to 'joyfully take courage' in the world.

The **First Reading** recalls the night of the Passover, when the Jewish slaves put their trust in God and escaped the oppression of Pharaoh. In the **Gospel**, Jesus teaches that while the Kingdom of God has, in one sense, already arrived, in another it is still to come: it is both a gift and a challenge to us. It is therefore vital that we are awake to meet the Master whenever he returns, committing our hearts to the unfailing treasures of his kingdom.

The **Second Reading** meditates on the history of Israel, inviting us to imitate people like Abraham and Sarah as models of faith. Faith is the virtue that enables us to keep watching and waiting for the Lord's presence in the ups and downs of our daily lives.

The **Psalmist** celebrates all peoples: women and men who are chosen by the Lord, and in turn, place their trust and hope in him.

Perhaps this week we might take our prayer from today's theme:

*Father, please deepen our trust in you,
so we may live joyfully and with courage.*

We also continue to pray for peace across the world.



Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit
we dare to call our Father,
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts
the spirit of adoption as your sons and daughters,
that we may merit to enter into the inheritance
which you have promised.

Psalm 32 (33)

R/. Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own.

Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just;
for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.
They are happy, whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen as his own.

The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love,
to rescue their souls from death,
to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

I come to my place of prayer with a receptive spirit and like the psalmist, a 'loyal heart'. I bring my attention to my breath, allowing a few moments to become settled and present. God is already here ... and truly delighted that I have come seeking time with him.

I read this joyful, hope-filled psalm a couple of times ... noticing what captures my attention, even if I do not know why. I gently repeat these words to myself, allowing them to speak to my own 'waiting soul'. I ponder.

As I read the psalm again, I notice how I feel. Perhaps I marvel that all beings, including me, have been *chosen by the Lord as his own* ... as children of the living God. I ask the Holy Spirit to open my heart to the gift of joy and reverence. I sit and wonder ...

Perhaps I am also drawn to pray for our sisters and brothers all over the world who are living in the shadow of death, or in a time of famine. I pray that God's compassion and hope might flow into my own heart as I intercede for others with my Lord and God.

As I end my prayer, filled with gratitude for the experiences of love and goodness in my life and in the world around me, I ask the Lord to help me take the message of this psalm into my own daily living.

Gospel Luke 12: 32–48 (part)

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There is no need to be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased your Father to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Get yourselves purses that do not wear out, treasure that will not fail you, in heaven where no thief can reach it and no moth destroy it. For where your treasure is, there will be your heart be also.

See that you are dressed for action and have your lamps lit. Be like those waiting for their master to return from the wedding feast, ready to open the door as soon as he comes and knocks. Happy those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. I tell you solemnly, he will put on an apron, sit them down at table and wait on them. It may be in the second watch he comes, or in the third, but happy those servants if he finds them ready. You may be quite sure of this, that if the householder had known at what hour the burglar would come, he would not have let anyone break through the wall of his house. You too must stand ready, because the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.'

As I settle into my place of prayer, I ask God to bless me ... to give me the grace to slow down and be attentive to him. I pray not to be distracted by my own fears and attachments, but to give all my attention to my Lord.

I read these teachings a couple of times. Perhaps I choose to sit with the disciples, listening to Jesus. Which phrases draw my attention ... my heart ... my imagination ...? I trust that the Lord will help me take from the scripture what he wants me to see.

Perhaps I am drawn today to Jesus's gentle encouragement and his deep confidence in the Father's gift of the kingdom?

Or maybe I consider his profound 'life-questions':

What is my '*treasure*'? What are the priorities of my own heart?

How '*awake*' am I to the living presence of Christ?

I ponder on my life and its many gifts, speaking to Jesus about what has arisen in my prayer time. Without trying too hard, I sit with my Lord, trusting in the shared silence of our time together.

I give thanks for God's endless generosity and mercy in my life, asking forgiveness for the times he finds me, his servant, asleep. *Glory be ...*