

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

You spare all things because all things are yours,
Lord, lover of life

First Reading

The Lord supports all who fall
and raises all who are bowed down.

Psalm

'Zaccheus come down!
Hurry, because I must stay at your house today!'

Gospel

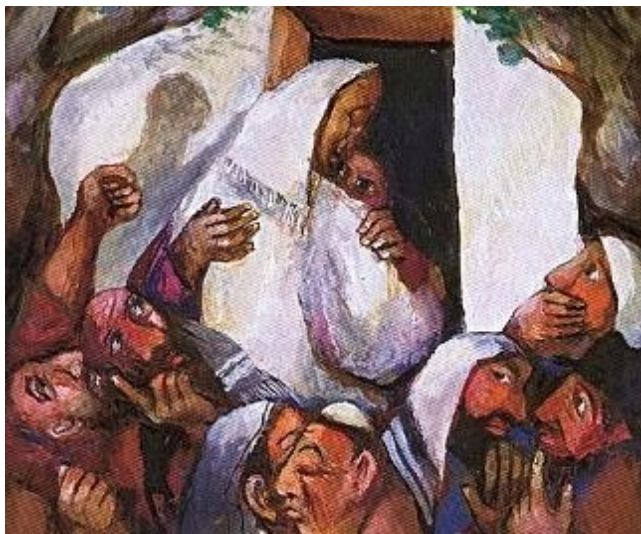
The Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost.

Gospel

God of power and mercy,
only with your help can we offer you fitting service and praise.
May we live the faith we profess
and trust your promise of eternal life.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you want to reflect further:
Wisdom 11: 22–12: 2; Ps. 144 (145); 2 Thess. 1: 11–2: 2; Luke 19: 1–10



Sieger Köder, Zacchaeus

Today
salvation
has come
to this
house!

If you'd like to receive Prego by email each week, sign up at
www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

ST. BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year C
3rd November 2019

Hurry to help me, Lord, my Saviour!
Entrance Antiphon

The readings this Sunday are full of encouragement. Our compassionate God loves us so much that he looks beyond our sins to see the people we can become. However unworthy we may seem, God seeks us out and calls us to him.

The **First Reading** celebrates God's compassion and mercy for the whole of creation. Everything belongs to him in love, and his desire to spare us helps us make amends for our misdeeds.

In the same way, the **Psalm** helps us to praise our God who is slow to anger, lifting us up when we fall.

In the **Second Reading**, the Thessalonians are encouraged to focus on their call in the here and now, rather than becoming distracted by rumours about the Second Coming. The author's constant prayer is that the name of Jesus might be glorified in them.

The familiar **Gospel** rejoices in salvation of the lost. Jesus actively seeks out the unpopular tax collector Zacchaeus, branded a sinner by others. Zacchaeus responds with joy to Jesus's urgent call, eagerly seeking to make amends for his former life.

This week, I pray to become ever more aware of God's compassionate gaze on me, a loved sinner, and to hear and respond to his call with a joyful heart.

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service,
grant, we pray, that we may hasten without stumbling
to receive the things you have promised.

First Reading Wisdom 11: 22–12: 2

In your sight the whole world is like a grain of dust
that tips the scales,
like a drop of morning dew falling on the ground.
Yet you are merciful to all, because you can do all things
and overlook our sins so that we can repent.
Yes, you love all that exists,
you hold nothing of what you have made in abhorrence,
for had you hated anything, you would not have formed it.
And how, had you not willed it, could a thing persist,
how be conserved if not called forth by you?
You spare all things because all things are yours,
Lord, lover of life,
you whose imperishable spirit is in all.
Little by little, therefore, you correct those who offend,
you admonish and remind them of how they have sinned,
so that they may abstain from evil and trust in you, Lord.

As I settle to pray, I take time to bring myself consciously into the Lord's presence. I can trust that he is here, always waiting to welcome me. I ask to respond today with openness and generosity.

In time, I read these words slowly, reverently, allowing them to sink into my being. I may like to imagine myself standing with God, looking with love at the whole world from a great distance, tiny as a dewdrop. What touches me here?

The Wisdom writer tells us that God loves *all* that he has made, and his spirit is in all things. I ponder this.

Can I look at God's creation in this way ... including things or people that I instinctively find unattractive or 'sinful'?

I share my thoughts and feelings openly with the Lord, and ask for help to see the world around me with his eyes of compassion.

Perhaps I am conscious of things in my own life that I need God to 'correct'. Remembering that I am a *loved* sinner, I speak to the Lord from my heart, and ask for an ever greater trust in His love and mercy.

As I end my prayer, I give thanks to God in my own words. *Our Father* ...

Gospel Luke 19: 1–10

Jesus entered Jericho and was going through the town, when a man whose name was Zacchaeus made his appearance; he was one of the senior tax collectors and a wealthy man. He was anxious to see what kind of man Jesus was, but he was too short and could not see him for the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to catch a glimpse of Jesus who was to pass that way. When Jesus reached the spot he looked up and spoke to him: 'Zacchaeus, come down. Hurry, because I must stay at your house today.' And he hurried down and welcomed him joyfully. They all complained when they saw what was happening. 'He has gone to stay at a sinner's house' they said. But Zacchaeus stood his ground and said to the Lord, 'Look, sir, I am going to give half my property to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody I will pay him back four times the amount.' And Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because this man too is a son of Abraham; for the Son of Man has come to seek out and save what was lost'.

I take time to come to stillness in the way that suits me best, trusting that I am in the presence of a loving God who welcomes me exactly as I am.

When I am ready, I turn prayerfully to the text. Perhaps I imagine myself present in the scene as a bystander, or as Zacchaeus himself.

What can I see and hear around me ...? I take my time.

Presently, I allow Jesus to seek *my* gaze ... How does he look at me ...? Might he be calling me to him with the same urgency with which he calls Zacchaeus, eager for *me* to share in his mission ... to come to *my* house? I ponder ... and speak to the Lord about this as I would to a close friend, listening as well as sharing my own thoughts and feelings.

Zacchaeus's initial curiosity to see Jesus leads to a much deeper encounter that enables him to respond from his heart.

I reflect on this, pondering how Jesus himself might feel as he hears the joyful response of one who had seemed to be lost ...

In time, I may feel drawn to ask:

Is Jesus inviting *me* to help him show others what God is like, in a deeper, fuller way? I ask him to guide me, remembering that the Lord is always with me, and I do nothing in my own strength.

When I am ready, I end my prayer with a slow sign of the cross. *Glory be* ...