

The Gospel today seems to be a classical example of the link between perseverance and blessing; between unflagging doggedness and achieving one's goal. Luke sets the story in the context of a challenge that Jesus makes to his disciples to pray always and to not lose heart. The lesson seems to say, persevere and you will be blessed, however, the real lesson is found in how we react to the world around us - in our reaction to our trials and tribulations and to the trials and tribulations of this world. In spite of these trials, do we trust totally in God? Do we really believe God wants the best for us no matter what? Do we pray always and not lose heart or do we only go to God when we can't do anything else, and then abandon Him when things aren't happening as we think they should?

'The Spirit too comes to the aid of our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings' (Romans 8:26)

Prayer over the Offerings

Grant us, Lord, we pray, a sincere respect for your gifts, that, through the purifying action of your grace, we may be cleansed by the very mysteries we serve. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.

Prayer after Communion

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that, benefiting from participation in heavenly things, we may be helped by what you give in this present age and prepared for the gifts that are eternal.
Through Christ our Lord.

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY

Year C

19th October 2025

Pray Always, Without Losing Heart

God expects us to do our bit, whatever that bit is, but prayer is the key. The importance of prayer is emphasized in today's readings which invite us to consider two examples of perseverance in prayer, and the final success that this achieves.

Entrance Antiphon

To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God; turn your ear to me; hear my words. Guard me as the apple of your eye; in the shadow of your wings protect me.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

EXODUS 17: 8-13

In those days: Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. So Moses said to Joshua, 'Choose for us men, and go out and 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 hand, Israel prevailed, and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. But Moses' hands grew weary, so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it, while 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 going down of the sun. And Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Moses, the man of God, stands on the hilltop interceding for his people who are struggling for their survival in the valley below, attacked by the violent tribe of Amalek. His arms are raised in the classic gesture of intercession (later immortalized in the Cross of Christ, and still used by the celebrant at Mass.) When, out of sheer weariness, his arms begin to droop, Israel fares badly in the battle. Moses' friends literally prop him up, he manages to persevere in his mediating prayer, until victory is won.

"How should we pray? Some think that to pray is to use many words... to talk to God like a parrot, no! Praying is done from the heart, from inside, He does not need anything, our God: in prayer he asks only that we keep open a channel of communication with him to always discover ourselves to be his beloved children and that he loves us so much." (Pope Francis)

PSALM: 121(120):1-2. 3-4. 5-6. 7-8.

Response: *Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

I lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall come my help?
My help shall come from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

He will keep your foot from stumbling. Your guard will never slumber.
No, he sleeps not nor slumbers, Israel's guard.

The LORD your guard, the LORD your shade at your right hand.
By day the sun shall not smite you, nor the moon in the night.

The LORD will guard you from evil; he will guard your soul.
The LORD will guard your going and coming, both now and for ever.

2 TIMOTHY 3: 14-4:2

Beloved: Continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in

righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **THE WORD OF THE LORD**

When we pray to God, we pray for people and things and sometimes it seems that God has heard our prayer right away. Other times it seems like God does not even hear us. It seems like God has forgotten us. It seems like we are wasting our time even praying to God. But God hears us. God answers every prayer. Sometimes though, God feels that we are not ready for the thing we want. God wants us to keep on praying - to listen to him - and to never give up looking and asking for the very best things for ourselves and for others.

Alleluia, alleluia. The word of God is living and active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Alleluia.

LUKE 18: 1-8

Jesus told his disciples a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, "Give me justice against my adversary." For a while he refused, but afterwards he said to himself, "Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming."'

And the Lord said, 'Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?' **THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**