

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

Lord, make me know your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me,
for you are God my saviour.

Psalm

When the sinner renounces sin ... they shall certainly live,
they shall not die.

First Reading

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God,
but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as
we are.

Second Reading

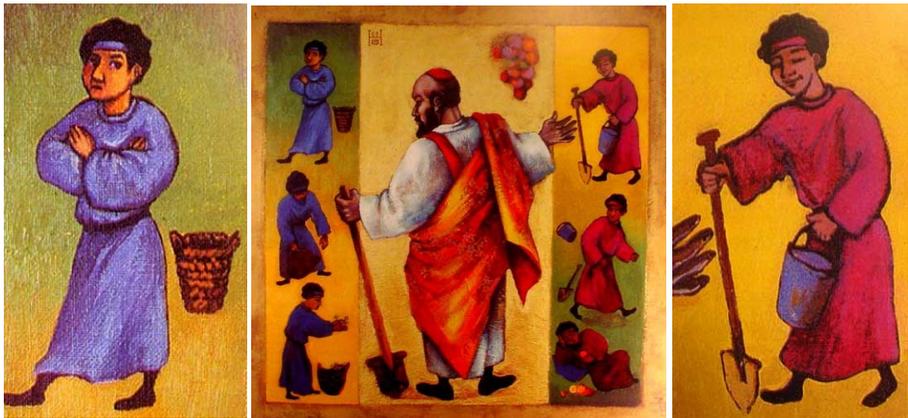
Father, you show your almighty power
in your mercy and forgiveness.

Continue to fill us with your gifts of love.

Help us to hurry towards the eternal life you promise
and come to share in the joys of your kingdom.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Ezekiel 18: 25–28; Psalm 24 (25); Philippians 2: 1–11; Matthew 21: 28–32



Which of the two did the father's will?

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



Twenty-sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time
Year A
27th September 2020

'In your minds you must be the same
as Christ Jesus'

In this week's readings, we are invited to reflect on our need for a change of heart. We are called to follow the Lord's way, as we try to model our actions and words on his.

The Jews in exile complained that the Lord was unjust, but the prophet Ezekiel tells them they should look at their own behaviour rather than blame others. God will save those who are law-abiding and honest – those who follow his way. **(First Reading)**

St Paul encourages the Philippians to be united in love, purpose and mind, which they should model on the mind of Christ himself.

Although divine and equal with God, Christ was humble enough to become as we are, and even then to die on a cross. **(Second Reading)**

The Lord is merciful and forgiving; he is always ready to show us the way and guide us to walk in his paths. **(Psalm)**

No matter which group in society we belong to, only a true change of heart, where we welcome the Good News, will open the way to the Kingdom of God. **(Gospel)**

This week, I may want to focus on trying to live according to Jesus's values. I ask the Lord to help shape my mind to be like his, so that people around me will see that love is shown in deeds more than in words.

Opening Prayer

O God, who manifest your almighty power
above all by pardoning and showing mercy,
bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us
and make those hastening to attain your promises
heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Psalm 24 (25)

R/. Remember your mercy, Lord.

Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
For you are God my saviour.

Remember your mercy, Lord,
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love, remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord.

The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path;
he teaches his way to the poor.

The time has come. I have found a few moments I can give to the Lord.
I settle down in my favourite place and try to come to quiet.
I ask God to help me leave all my everyday concerns behind for the time being.

After a few moments, I pick up the leaflet and read the psalm. If possible,
I say it out loud, or on my breath.
I stop when I feel drawn, and ponder.

Maybe I am struck by the way the psalmist speaks to the Lord in the first two stanzas. How do I speak to God?

I reflect on my journey so far. Has it been easy to follow the way of the Lord, or have I needed him to guide my steps on his path?

Perhaps the Spirit leads me to focus on the 'sins of my youth'.
Was I able to speak to the Lord about them at the time?
Have things changed now?

With hindsight, in what ways have his mercy and his love helped me to grow? I stay with this for a while.

Before taking my leave, I thank the Lord for his gentle guidance each time I have strayed away from his path, and speak out my gratitude for the love he has shown me from of old.

Gospel Matthew 21: 28–32

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two children. He went and said to the first, "My child, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go", but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir", but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first', they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

I take a few slow breaths, then breathe normally.

When I am ready, I prayerfully read this week's Gospel.

I try to visualise the characters in this scene: the chief priests ... the elders ... Jesus himself. In my imagination, I see their clothes, I hear their voices.
What is the atmosphere like?

I focus on the story of the two siblings. Maybe I feel drawn to bring the story into this century, imagining modern parents and their children.
What would be the setting? Does it throw a different light on the situation?
Perhaps I see myself as one of the siblings. Which one am I drawn to be?
It could be that at some time in my life I have been like one child ... then like the other. I ponder.

Jesus contrasts two very different categories of people hoping to enter his Kingdom: the religious authorities and the tax collectors and prostitutes.

I look at the people around me. How readily do I put them into categories, where I decide which ones are making their way into the Kingdom of God, and which are not?

In the same way, have I ever felt that others have judged me wrongly?

I speak to the Lord about what is in my heart.

When I am ready, I slowly bring the strands of my prayer together and thank the Lord for being with me.