

Lord, show me the path to life!

1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

Psalm 16: 1-11 Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Luke 9: 51-62

In the first reading, God informs Elijah to anoint Elisha as the prophet to succeed him. Elijah threw his cloak around him and Elisha followed him from that time on.

The Psalmist praises God as the Supreme Good. He acknowledges the Lord as the One who gives him counsel and shows him the path to life where there will be fullness of joy. He is thankful for the grace to cherish the holy ones of the community.

In the second reading we are reminded that Christ freed us so we are to stand firm in our faith and be careful not to take on the yoke of slavery again. Very important is to "Love our neighbors as ourselves." It is the Spirit that guides us to live in accord with one another, and strengthens us against the lures of worldly values.

In the Gospel Jesus is on his way to Jerusalem and a number of people indicate they wish to be his followers. He reminds them that there are sacrifices involved and his followers must not look back and seek comfortable places to rest. Proclaiming the Kingdom is the first priority.



**The Father is our protector,
The Son, Christ Jesus, our path to freedom,
The Holy Spirit our guide.**

Do Good, and Give Generously

We cannot overemphasize the importance of "loving and caring for our neighbors." This fulfills the Father's command to cherish one another, the Son's command to love one another, and the Spirit's command to live in accord with each other. Don't look back to past hurts but bring new life into all your relationships. The freedom we have can be used by putting ourselves at each other's service, something strongly emphasized by Paul to the Galatians, and to us today. Where have you put your service to use?

"Through all your days, my son, keep the Lord in mind, and suppress every desire to sin or to break his commandments. Perform good works all the days of your life, and do not tread the paths of wrongdoing. For if you are steadfast in your service, your good works will bring success, not only to you, but also to all those who live uprightly. "Give alms from your possessions. Do not turn your face away from any of the poor, and God's face will not be turned away from you. Son, give alms in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, distribute even some of that. But do not hesitate to give alms; you will be storing up a goodly treasure for yourself against the day of adversity. Almsgiving frees one from death, and keeps one from going into the dark abode. Alms are a worthy offering in the sight of the Most High for all who give them. (Tobit 4:5-11)

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