

Lord, graciously hear our petitions that we make in your Holy Name!

Genesis 18:20-32

Psalm 138:1-3,6-8

Colossians 2:12-14

Luke 11:1-13



In the first reading Abraham pleads with Yahweh for the few innocent people of Sodom and Gomorrah in order they not be destroyed with the many who are guilty of sin and abomination. The outcry against the sinfulness of the unjust was so great as to be heard in heaven and action called for.

The Psalmist thanks the Lord whose name is made great by his faithfulness and love which excels anything known on earth.. "My prayer is answered," he says, "and the Lord builds up my strength." I am protected against the anger of my enemies and the Lord will complete what he has begun in me. Even though the Lord is highly exalted he sees the lowly and the humble and answers their prayers.

In the second reading Paul teaches that baptism raises us to new life in the company of Christ. Our sins were pardoned and the bonds that held us were canceled and any attached legal claims were nailed to the cross and hence removed.

In the Gospel Jesus teaches the disciples how to pray. He emphasizes that perseverance pays off and those that ask, receive, those that seek shall find, and those that knock will have doors opened to them.



**Our Father hears our prayers,
And the Son teaches us how to pray,
While the Holy Spirit empowers our prayer.**

Abraham was persistent with God because he wanted no innocent person to needlessly suffer destruction in Sodom and Gomorrah. The Psalmist called in prayer until he was strengthened. Jesus himself emphasizes the importance of persistence in asking, seeking, and knocking as we pursue spiritual as well as physical needs. God gives us new life in Christ and we are taught, just as the disciples were, how to pray and how to live our prayer. Pray for the grace of mutual forgiveness, that we may learn to overlook each other's offenses in a spirit of compassion and solidarity.

It is the Lord who is our "refuge in days of distress."(Nahum 1:7). He beckons us to come to him when all is not well with us. Perhaps what hinders us most is that we are too slow in coming to prayer, first seeking outward things that we think will refresh us. It is only the Lord that delivers us when we trust in him wholeheartedly.

Is anything too difficult for the Lord? The Lord is not like the many who promise but do not live up to expectations. Pray that your faith be strengthened, that you are firm and persevering, that you practice endurance and courage; consolation will come when you least expect it!

The Lord says, "Wait for Me, wait; I will come and cure you!"

(Adapted from Imitation of Christ, Kempis, Book 2, Chapter 30)

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