

# PERSEVERING IN PRAYER AND FAITH

Fr. Alejo S. San Buenaventura, SJ

Today's readings speak powerfully to moments when life asks us to hold on—when we feel weary, discouraged, or tempted to give up. They remind us that perseverance in faith is not about relying on our own strength but trusting in the One who fights for us, who never sleeps, and whose justice will surely come.

In the First Reading, Moses stands atop a hill with hands raised in prayer. As long as his hands are lifted, Israel prevails. But Moses grows tired—like any of us would. Then Aaron and Hur come alongside to support him. Victory is not won by Moses alone but through his community leaning on God's power. In your battles—illness, grief, injustice, exhaustion—remember: you are not alone. God sends helpers. And even when your strength fades, his does not.

Psalm 121 affirms this truth: "My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." God watches over us not as a distant observer but as a loving protector, guarding us day and night. Trust that you are seen, known, and cared for—always.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul urges Timothy—and us—to remain faithful to the Scriptures and to preach whether convenient or not. The Word of God sustains us.

When perseverance seems impossible, return to his Word and be renewed.

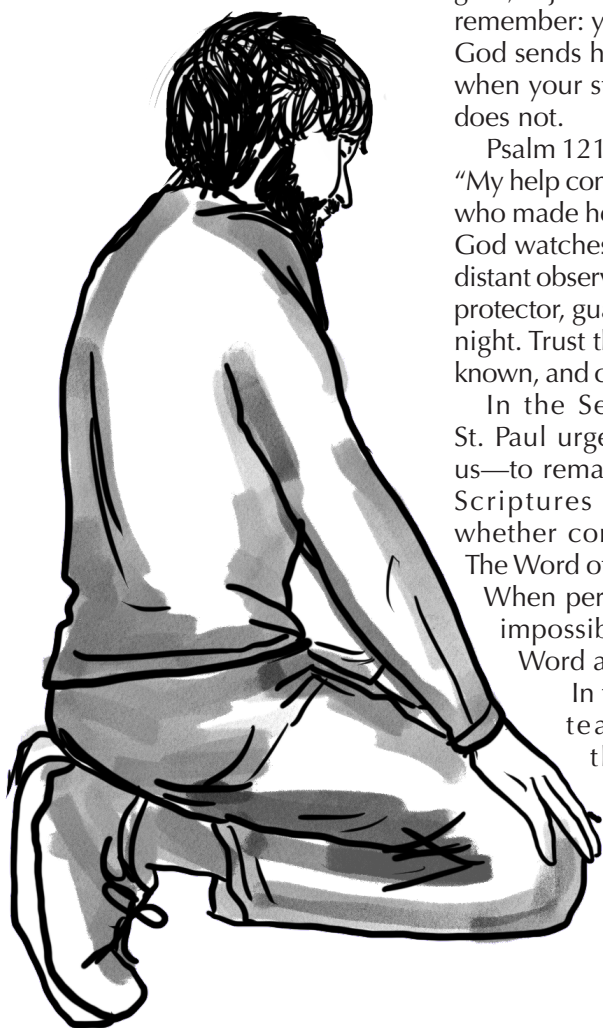
In the Gospel, Jesus teaches through the parable of the Persistent Widow. Her situation is unjust, yet she returns again

and again to the judge. And Jesus tells us—if even an unjust judge grants justice to persistence, how much more will our loving Father respond to his children who cry out to him day and night? Jesus is teaching us the right attitude in prayer: persistence, humility, and faith. God hears us—and often answers beyond what we ask.

When I was at the Arvisu House Jesuit Candidacy, I experienced the same desperation as the widow. During our discernment retreat, I longed to see, hear, and feel Jesus—but nothing was "happening" in prayer. In my last recourse, I begged for the intercession of the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Lourdes. Truly, the Son cannot ignore his mother's plea. A day before the retreat ended, God answered. A breakthrough came—and it changed the course of my life.

The prophet Jeremiah says, "When you seek me with all your heart, you will find me" (Jer 29:13). These words testify to the power of persistence and the truth that God listens.

So, pray—not because God forgets you, but because prayer keeps your heart connected to him. Persevere. Lift your hands. Lean on others. Stay rooted in his Word. And trust that God is working, even when unseen.



## THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

### Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 17 [16]: 6, 8)

*(Recited when there is no opening song)*

**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.**

### Greeting

*(The sign of the cross is made here)*

**P**—The Lord be with you.

**All**—And with your spirit.

### Introduction

*(The priest addresses the assembly with these or other similar words)*

**P**—Today we celebrate **World Mission Sunday** with the theme “**Missionaries of Hope among All Peoples.**” It reminds individual Christians and the entire Church, the community of the baptized, of our fundamental vocation to be, in the footsteps of Christ, messengers and builders of hope. We are all missionaries by the fact that we are disciples of the Lord Jesus.

We also celebrate the **Sunday for Cultures**. May the cultures of the world be inspired by the spirit of the Gospel even as they enrich our Christian faith.

### Penitential Rite

**P**—Brethren, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

**P**—Have mercy on us, O Lord.  
**All**—**For we have sinned against you.**

**P**—Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

**All**—**And grant us your salvation.**

**P**—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

**All**—**Amen.**

**P**—Lord, have mercy.

**All**—**Lord, have mercy.**

**P**—Christ, have mercy.

**All**—**Christ, have mercy.**

**P**—Lord, have mercy.

**All**—**Lord, have mercy.**

## Gloria

**All**—**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

### Collect

**P**—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

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.

**All**—**Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD



### First Reading (Ex 17:8-13) *(Sit)*

*The outstretched hands of Moses during the Israelites' battle against the Amalekites assure Israel's victory, illustrating the power of prayer.*

### A reading from the Book of Exodus

IN THOSE days, Amalek came and waged war against Israel. Moses, therefore, said to Joshua, “Pick out certain men, and tomorrow go out and engage Amalek in battle. I will be standing on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand.” So Joshua did as

Moses told him: he engaged Amalek in battle after Moses had climbed to the top of the hill with Aaron and Hur. As long as Moses kept his hands raised up, Israel had the better of the fight, but when he let his hands rest, Amalek had the better of the fight. Moses' hands, however, grew tired; so they put a rock in place for him to sit on. Meanwhile Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side and one on the other, so that his hands remained steady till sunset. And Joshua mowed down Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

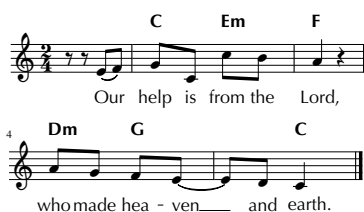
—The word of the Lord.

**All**—**Thanks be to God.**

### Responsorial Psalm (Ps 121)

**R**—**Our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

E. C. Marfori



**1.** I lift up my eyes toward the mountains;/ whence shall help come to me? / My help is from the LORD, / who made heaven and earth. **(R)**

**2.** May he not suffer your foot to slip;/ may he slumber not who guards you:/ indeed he neither slumbers nor sleeps, / the guardian of Israel. **(R)**

**3.** The LORD is your guardian; the LORD is your shade;/ he is beside you at your right hand./ The sun shall not harm you by day, / nor the moon by night. **(R)**

**4.** The LORD will guard you from all evil;/ he will guard your life. /The LORD will guard your coming and your going, / both now and forever. **(R)**

### Second Reading (2Tm 3:14–4:2)

*The apostle Paul asks Timothy to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ and to equip himself for good work through recourse to the Scriptures. As Christians we are called to do the same.*

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy**

BELOVED: Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed, because you know from whom you learned it, and that from infancy you have known the sacred Scriptures, which are capable of giving you wisdom for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that one who belongs to God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingly power: proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.

—The word of the Lord.

**All—Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia** (Heb 4:12) (*Stand*)

**All—Alleluia, alleluia. The word of God is living and effective, discerning reflections and thoughts of the heart. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Gospel** (Lk 18:1-8)

**P—**The Lord be with you.

**All—And with your spirit.**

**P—**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

**All—Glory to you, O Lord.**

JESUS told his disciples a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, “There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to

him and say, ‘Render a just decision for me against my adversary.’ “For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, ‘While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.’ ” The Lord said, “Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” —The Gospel of the Lord.

**All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily** (*Sit*)

**Profession of Faith** (*Stand*)

**All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*At the words that follow, up to and including and became man, all bow*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who**

**has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Faithful**

**P—**Let us pray to our Father in heaven, the Lord of the harvest, that he send laborers into his harvest. May we, his people prove faithful to our calling to be a missionary Church. With confidence we say:

**R—Loving Father, hear the prayers of your children.**

**C—**May all Christians obey the call of the Lord Jesus to go forth from their comfort zones, and reach the “peripheries” of society in need of the light and the joy of the Gospel. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**May Church leaders and missionaries lead people to the Lord not by aggressive proselytizing but by sharing joy, highlighting beauty, and sharing the richness of the faith. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**During this Jubilee Year, may we discover how to become “artisans” of hope and restorers of an often distracted and unhappy humanity. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**In the work of evangelization, may missionaries approach the different cultures with respect and humility, rather than impose their own cultural norms. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**May we persevere in our prayer, and offer our petitions for our beloved dead and those souls who are no longer remembered. We pray: **(R)**

**C—**Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions (*pause*). We pray: **(R)**

**P—**Father, you are close to us and always listen to our prayers. May we never cease to call on you especially in moments of great need. And may we never fail to thank you for all your graces.

Through Christ, our Lord.

**All—Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST



### Presentation of the Gifts (*Stand*)

**P**—Pray, brethren...

**All**—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

### Prayer over the Offerings

**P**—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.  
**All**—Amen.

### Preface (*Ordinary Time II*)

**P**—The Lord be with you.

**All**—And with your spirit.

**P**—Lift up your hearts.

**All**—We lift them up to the Lord.

**P**—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All**—It is right and just.

**P**—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For out of compassion for the waywardness that is ours, he humbled himself and was born of the Virgin; by the passion of the Cross he freed us from unending death, and by rising from the dead he gave us life eternal.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim:

**All**—Holy, Holy, Holy... (*Kneel*)

### Acclamation (*Stand*)

**All**—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

*In Celebration of our 25 Years Anniversary*

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## THE COMMUNION RITE

### The Lord's Prayer

**All**—Our Father...

**P**—Deliver us, Lord...

**All**—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

### Invitation to Peace

### Invitation to Communion

(*Kneel*)

**P**—Behold the Lamb of God...

**All**—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

### Communion Antiphon

(Cf. Ps 33 [32]: 18-19)

**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

(*Stand*)

**P**—Let us pray. (*Pause*)

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.

**All**—Amen.

## THE CONCLUDING RITES

**P**—The Lord be with you.

**All**—And with your spirit.

### Prayer over the People

**P**—Bow down for the blessing.  
(*Pause*)

May your family always rejoice together, O God, over the mysteries of redemption they have celebrated, and grant its members the perseverance to attain the effects that flow from them.

Through Christ our Lord.

**All**—Amen.

**P**—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†), and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.

**All**—Amen.

### Dismissal

**P**—The Mass has been offered. Go in the peace of Christ.

**All**—Thanks be to God.

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BROTHER  
OF MASS MEDIA.  
BE A PAULINE!**

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