

**REFLECTION:** I remember a time when I made a decision without thinking I was going to hurt the person I loved the most in my life... I remember... I remember...

**OUR FATHER**

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**  
**R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

**SIGN OF PEACE**

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**R. And with your spirit.**

**LAMB OF GOD**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **have mercy on us.**  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: **grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.  
**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

**COMMUNION**

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray:  
Lord,  
Forgive us and help us to make God central in our lives. Help us to love ourselves enough so that we will always treat others as we want to be treated and see you in the least of our brothers and sisters.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

*Love Your Neighbor*

**WISDOM FROM THE CELLS**

Last year, I was in the compound of juvenile hall with a person who had just lost his fitness. I only knew him for a period of three weeks, but during this brief time I noticed his struggles. He was distracted and I felt it was my duty to help him out.

Today, I sit in a state prison cell and with me is this same person. I've now come to know this guy better. We are still of the flesh and the flesh tempts us to conduct ourselves as the individuals that we were once portrayed to be. We both struggle, but we strive constantly to become the humans God intended us to be. We are in this battle together! We have exchanged our weapons for a bible and our souls of darkness for souls of light. We are the Warriors of the Light, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**-Ezequiel, who is in a California State Prison.**

**31st Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle B | November 3, 2024**



**PENITENTIAL RITE**

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**  
May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.  
**R. Amen.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray:  
Lord,  
What you ask of us is difficult. Give us the strength and courage to walk that path by relying on the grace of your loving presence.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.  
**R. Amen.**



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses spoke to the people, saying: "Fear the LORD, your God, and keep, throughout the days of your lives, all his statutes and commandments which I enjoin on you, and thus have long life. Hear then, Israel, and be careful to observe them, that you may grow and prosper the more, in keeping with the promise of the LORD, the God of your fathers, to give you a land flowing with milk and honey. "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD alone! Therefore, you shall love the LORD, your God, with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. Take to heart these words which I enjoin on you today."

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28

Brothers and sisters: The levitical priests were many because they were prevented by death from remaining in office, but Jesus, because he remains forever, has a priesthood that does not pass away. Therefore, he is always able to save those who approach God through him, since he lives forever to make intercession for them. It was fitting that we should have such a high priest: holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, higher than the heavens. He has no need, as did the high priests, to offer sacrifice day after day, first for his own sins and then for those of the people; he did that once for all when he offered himself. For the law appoints men subject to weakness to be high priests, but the word of the oath, which was taken after the law, appoints a son, who has been made perfect forever.

The Word of the Lord.  
**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 18: 2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

### R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, O LORD, my strength,  
O LORD, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.

### R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

My God, my rock of refuge,  
my shield, the horn of my salvation,  
my stronghold!

Praised be the LORD, I exclaim,  
and I am safe from my enemies.

### R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

The LORD lives! And blessed be my rock!  
Extolled be God my savior.

You who gave great victories to your king  
and showed kindness to your anointed.

### R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

## Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34

One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: *Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* The second is this: *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, 'He is One and there is no other than he.' And 'to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself' is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# MEDITATION: LOVING GOD

the long line of  
pharisees buying  
their sacrificial animals  
the vast amount  
of money spent  
on these oblations

to be clean  
to please god  
to obey the law

i was sitting  
reflecting on my life  
i have been  
in that line  
many times  
but do i really  
love god?  
what does it mean  
to love god  
passionately?

i went over to where  
jesus was gathered  
with his friends  
the heat of the day  
filling the space

jesus saw me  
and knew  
i was uncomfortable

i came here master  
could you tell us  
what is the greatest  
of the commandments?

jesus sat down  
saying  
to love god  
to love god  
totally

and to treat  
your neighbor as  
you treat yourself

i wondered  
how much i really  
do love god

master  
what you say  
is so right  
i have been reflecting  
about this in my life  
to love god and others  
is what counts

but with my life  
as i now live it  
i wonder what  
this means  
i spend so much money  
buying sacrifices  
to supposedly  
please god  
with these offerings  
i sometimes wonder  
if god really cares  
about all this  
flowing of blood

rather  
master jesus  
i think what  
touches our heart  
is how cruelly  
these religious leaders  
treat their servants daily  
even as they prepare  
to offer their sacrifices  
to god

standing here  
watching  
the religious leaders  
deal with their helpers  
i think sometimes  
they treat their criminals  
better

how can anyone say  
they love god

with their whole being  
when they are  
so indifferent  
to the misery  
of those near them?

jesus  
being here  
in this place  
with you  
i see i need to  
treat my servants  
with more compassion  
i see i need  
to treat the blind  
the crippled  
with more  
compassion

after reflecting  
on the arrogance  
of the priests' offering  
so many sacrifices  
i know i want to  
do things differently

to love god  
with my whole heart  
my whole mind  
my whole being  
i walked over  
to the blind one with  
his outstretched hand  
put in the two coins  
that were reserved  
to buy animals  
to sacrifice  
then walked  
to the crippled woman  
so advanced in age  
and gave her  
the rest of my money  
i was going to use  
so blood could flow  
so profusely  
so that god  
would be appeased

for one more year

jesus  
i do desire  
to love god totally  
i recognize that  
i do not know  
how to do this

god  
i give these coins  
to those who  
need them  
no longer  
do i want to believe  
that i can win you over  
with blood from  
these animals

i want to live my day  
out of love

god  
in this place  
in the midst  
of confusion  
in the midst  
of so many  
distractions  
i tell you that  
when i get up  
in the morning  
as i see the sunrise  
let my heart sing  
out of love

i feel this love  
now for god  
and my neighbor  
help me to love  
those whom i meet  
every day with  
this same love

