

REFLECTION: I remember a time when I was not faithful in a relationship and this is how I felt...
I remember... I remember...

Faithful to God

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle C | January 19, 2025



WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

I remember a time I was strengthened by the love of my mother... I'm strengthened by the love of my mother everyday just seeing how strong she holds on. Her son is in prison doing life. I could only imagine how hard that alone could be. My mom has been through so much. I did a lot of bad before I got here and yet, she always stays strong and tries to lead me to a good path. No matter what troubles I'm in, she pushes me to do the right thing.

When I came to prison, I had just turned 18. I was young, and I got a life sentence. In my head, my life was over. I had only one path to go on and that was the path of destruction: self-destruction. I thought I had no other choice. Everyone told me, "Hey, you're a lifer, you got nothing to lose." So for a long time I lived with that mentality.

When my mom would come visit me, she could tell I was up to no good. Somehow, mothers always know. So there she would be stressing on me to get out of everything, do good and for me to pray to God and ask him for help. I would get frustrated with her. I couldn't understand why she couldn't see why I had to live my life the way I did. That was until now. She clearly could never give up on me because she truly loves me. As I sit here, I realize that I'm strengthened by her so much. Her strength is powerful.

- Ismael, who is in a California State Prison.

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,
Through all our struggles and pain you are always there for us. Give us the strength to be there for others as well.

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

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,
Help us understand that no matter what, you will always be with us. Allow us to feel your presence and peace within our souls. Bring us close to you and to one another and warm our hearts with your own love.

We ask this through Jesus, our Savior. **R. Amen.**



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

For Zion's sake I will not be silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her vindication shines forth like the dawn and her victory like a burning torch. Nations shall behold your vindication, and all the kings your glory; you shall be called by a new name pronounced by the mouth of the LORD. You shall be a glorious crown in the hand of the LORD, a royal diadem held by your God. No more shall people call you "Forsaken," or your land "Desolate," but you shall be called "My Delight," and your land "Espoused." For the LORD delights in you and makes your land his spouse. As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you.

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

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; there are different forms of service but the same Lord; there are different workings but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit. To one is given through the Spirit the expression of wisdom; to another, the expression of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, gifts of healing by the one Spirit; to another, mighty deeds; to another, prophecy; to another, discernment of spirits; to another, varieties of tongues; to another, interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.

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

Gospel: John 2:1-11

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from— although the servers who had drawn the water knew —, the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all you lands.
Sing to the LORD; bless his name.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Announce his salvation, day after day.
Tell his glory among the nations;
among all peoples, his wondrous
deeds.

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

Give to the LORD, you families of nations,
give to the LORD glory and praise;
give to the LORD the glory due his
name!

R. Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.

MEDITATION: REAL LOVE

(from the eyes of peter)

we entered with jesus
to the wedding

i looked at the others
their eyes were bright
for a wedding celebration

we arrived at
the right moment
the ceremony
had begun
the bride was
pronouncing her vows
as she looked
into the eyes
of her husband-to-be

i love you
and will be faithful
all the days of my life
in the good
and the bad
in sickness
and in health

i looked at my friends
they were grinning

and andrew says
let's see what
the groom says

rebecca
you are beautiful
i have never
met a woman
like you
on this day
our wedding day
i tell you

i love you with
my whole person
i know many here
in this plaza
think fidelity
is impossible
they laughed at us
because they have
no idea of what
it is to find
someone like you

i will not judge
those who have
never been faithful
to their spouses
but i do know
i feel blessed today

i cannot speak
for those who think
being unfaithful
to another
is acceptable

all i know today
is that both of us
from our youth
have met god
of our ancestors
who have taught us
the joy of being faithful
to one another

i feel in
this courtyard
we are also
being blessed
by one greater

both of us
also will love god

with our whole being
there was a sacredness
that spread over
the entire courtyard
so many feelings
were felt
from all those
who had never
heard anything
liked this
who all their lives
thought that being sly
would bring them
happiness

tears feel down
their faces
when they realized
after all
their craziness
they had never loved
another person
like this

yes
of course
they had experienced
abundant pleasure

but love?

how could
they have been
so wrong?

and many knew
the person they
were married to
was the love of
their life

but they had
no spiritual depth

they were unfaithful
from the beginning
of the relationship

it was like
there was
a desert storm
passing over
the courtyard
the deep remorse
of so many
who have been
looking for love
in all the wrong places

jesus went over
to the couple
and placed his hands
on their heads

may our god
who loves us
unconditionally
continue to
sustain you
may your love
for the poor
continue to feed
your souls

you both
are truly blessed
by my abba
i see before me
real love
amen

