

# 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.**



# 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.**

## 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.**

## 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.**



# 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



**REFLECTION:** I remember a time when I was not faithful in a relationship and this is how I felt...  
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,  
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 Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

