

Scripture Prayer For The Week

"Once...
when Jesus...
was praying alone..." (Luke 9:18)



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Ordinary Time Week 14- Yr A

We Gather: In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. A heavy-looking back pack could be the symbol on the prayer table, which is covered with a green cloth.

Leader: I will give you glory, O God my ruler

All: I will bless your name forever.

We Listen: The Gospel. Matthew 11:25-30

Read the gospel passage reflectively. After a time of silent reflection, the line from scripture below could be repeated and the short commentary read.

"Shoulder my yoke and learn from me..."

Commentary:

What is there about this request that is both so commanding and yet so forbidding? Brought up on the sacrificial image of Christ, we shudder at the idea of the yoke. It means pain, suffering, shedding our blood as well as our comfort. That cross with the naked figure is permanently etched into our spirituality and shadows our human desire for fullness of life. Is all we have to learn from Christ about being despised, wounded, controlled and denied the hope and pleasures of human experience? How do we see beyond disfigurement and weight and find instead of a connection, a nothing-can part us-link, between a God of gentleness, simplicity and peace and our worried souls? Start with the last sentence of the passage and work back. We are promised soul's rest, a light task, God's compassion and honesty. With that as our foundation, we can joyfully commit ourselves to the task, not the burden, of justice and poverty...as he has taught us.

We Respond: "and you will find rest for your souls."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? You may wish to have a time of brief sharing.

- How do my worries and feelings of vulnerability come basically from my difficulty in accepting God's total compassion?
- What did Augustine mean by "Our Hearts are restless till they rest in you."?

Song: Galilee Song (F Andersen-AOV1) or Come To Me (M. Brown – A Heart's Journey)

We Go Forth:

God, you are simple and child-like in your total involvement and trust in us. Break down the religious fears that are indeed a burden for us. Throw the ribbon of your love around us and draw us to you, to share your work. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: We have died and been baptised in Christ. **All:** For ever alive for God in Christ.