

**TWENTY-NINTH
SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

YEAR C

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God,
our defender and our guide,
you are always anxious
to hear our prayers.
Bring us more and more
to realize
how much we need you,
and may we
never stop praising you
for all you have done
in our world.
We make this prayer to you
through Christ our Lord.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Our first reading from Timothy focuses on the need to be persistent in preaching the Word of God. The Bible is the heart of our tradition and teaches us the great truths that we must remain faithful to even in difficult times.

The Gospel reading also focuses on persistence, but this time in prayer. The passage for today is a parable. Thus, the characters should not be taken as representatives of God and the faithful. The focus is *not* that we can twist the arm of an unwilling God, but simply that persistence in prayer puts us in touch with God and opens us to the ways of God. In this sense we receive the gifts of God.

*Ask, seek, knock: you will receive.
My God, I will always hope in you.*

FIRST READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 4:1-2

A reading from Paul's second letter to Timothy.

Always be true to what you were taught
and what you believe.

Ever since you were a child,
you learned what is written in the Bible.

The Bible helps you understand
and believe that Jesus is our Savior.

God inspired people to write the Bible
to teach everyone to do what is right and good.

Now, in the presence of God and Jesus Christ,
I tell you: Preach God's Word!

Keep on teaching the truth even when it is hard.
Never give up.

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: Psalm 71

①
② 1, 2, 3, etc.
My God, I al-ways hope in you and praise you more and more and more!
last time (Echo) Fine
praise you more and more. — And praise you more and more. —

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

1. "Ask and you will have. Seek and you will find."
2. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
1.-2. Knock and the door will be o - pened to you."

GOSPEL: *Luke 18:1-8*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus wanted to teach his disciples that they should always pray and never give up. So he told them this story:

“Once there was a judge who lived in a certain town. Now this man didn’t believe in God, and he didn’t care about people either. There was a woman, who was a widow, living in the same town. She kept going to the judge and saying,

‘I am being treated unfairly!
Do something about it. Help me!’

“For a while the judge didn’t do anything. But finally he thought,

‘Even though I don’t care about God or people, I will help this woman so she will stop bothering me. If I don’t help her, she’ll never leave me alone, and I’m tired of her coming here.’ ”

Then Jesus said,

“Pay attention to what this bad judge said! Now think about this:
If people pray to God every day, won’t God, who is good, answer their prayers? Will God refuse for a while, like this bad judge? No, God will answer their prayers right away! Now I ask you, when I come again, will I find people who believe like this?”

The Gospel of the Lord.



REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

As we have had occasion to reflect on the need for prayer on previous Sundays, we suggest you reflect with the children on the Bible. Perhaps you will want to reread the first reading. Explain to the children that Timothy was a young man when Paul met him. Paul taught Timothy and later prepared him to be a leader in the Church. Now he is encouraging Timothy to remain faithful to what he learned and to preach the Word of God.

- Explain that the Bible has two main parts, the Old Testament which tells the story of God’s people before Jesus, and the New Testament which tells the life of Jesus and the Church.
- The Bible is God’s Word. People, over many years, wrote down what God did and what God said. They wrote the story of how God acted in their lives. The Bible also has God’s messages for us in the prophets.
- In the New Testament we read about the things Jesus did and said. When we read the Bible, we see God’s great love for us, and we want to live as Jesus did.
- The Bible is really lots of books put together, like a library: for example, the Book of Isaiah, the Book of Samuel. There are lots of different kinds of books: stories, letters, Gospels, history books, prayers, etc.

You may wish to end by encouraging the children to spend time reading the Bible.