

9 AUGUST 2020
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
VIANNEY SUNDAY

OPENING HYMN

Come into his presence with thanksgiving in your hearts,
And give him praise. -2
Come into his presence with thanksgiving in your hearts,
Your voices raise. -2

**Give glory and honour and power unto him
Jesus, the name above all names (2)**

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty, ever-living God, whom, taught by the Holy Spirit, we dare to call our Father, bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts, the spirit of adoption as Your sons and daughters, that we may merit to enter into the inheritance which you have promised. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Kgs 19:9-14

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Ps 84:9-14

Our Response is: *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. **R/**

Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. **R/**

The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. **R/**

SECOND READING: Rom 9:1-5

GOSPEL: Mt 14:22-33

REFLECTION:

At times, we may experience and discover God in nature: for example, visits to hill stations, retreats at Khandala etc... As baptized Catholics, our faith invites us to recognize the presence of God in the person of Jesus. Being Jesus' disciples, we look to Him for power, invitation and salvation.

In the first reading, God's power is manifested in acts of nature i.e. *wind, earthquake, fire*. Elijah recognizes God's presence in "*the sound of the gentle breeze*". The Gospel today invites us to experience the power and presence of God fully revealed in the person of Jesus i.e. "*Truly you are the Son of God*". In my life, what are some of the little things in which I can see God? **Pause**

Psalms 84 was probably written when the Israelites just returned from the Babylonian exile. They cried out to God when they were in great distress. Many may have doubted God's ability to restore their land after they had seen it devastated. Like the Psalmist, let us ask God to help us see more clearly what He is doing so that we may believe totally in His saving power and presence. **Pause**

Today's Gospel contrasts for us the divine action and our human response. This could also be described as divine trustworthiness, power and human doubt or weakness. When we give ourselves over to divine action we are saved. Peter depicts this for us very well in today's gospel. When he looks at Jesus and places his trust in him Peter walks on the water. When Peter takes his eyes off the Lord and looks away from Jesus, he observes the frightening wind and waves; he begins to sink. All of us, as Jesus' disciples, go through the process of invitation, an experience of His power and presence and salvation. Today, in our Archdiocese, we celebrate Vianney Sunday. Let us pray for our priests, that they may constantly look to Jesus who always stretches out his hand to each one of us, with life and salvation. Where do we choose to look in difficult and uncertain times? **Pause**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Leader: Let us confidently bring our prayers to the Lord who continues to save us through the power and presence of Jesus.

Our response is: Gracious Lord, hear our prayer

We pray for all the members of the Church, that we may constantly look to Jesus who stretches out His hand to offer us life and salvation; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all the people in the world, that we may turn our eyes towards God as the one who saves; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for the clergy, especially those who are aged, sick and homebound, that they may be comforted by the Lord; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

We pray for all the Diocesan priests, that they may be faithful and obedient to Christ, the Church and her teachings through the canonical and liturgical norms set by her; **pause**; let us pray to the Lord...

Leader: Eternal Father, Your Son Jesus saves all those who look to him. Hear our prayers that we may share your comforting peace and presence with those who are suffering. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us together at the Saviour's command and formed by Divine teaching, dare to say:
(All say the Lord's Prayer together) Our Father...

CLOSING PRAYER

O Lord, may the time spent in Your presence and Your Word that we have celebrated confirm us in the light of Your truth. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYER FOR RELIEF FROM THE CORONAVIRUS

Almighty and merciful God, who show Your love to all creation everywhere, hear graciously the prayers we make for all those affected by the Coronavirus in various parts of the world.

We come before You asking for a quick control of the outbreak, for a healing of those affected, for the victims and their families.

We pray for the doctors doing research that an effective vaccine to combat the sickness is speedily found.

We pray for the Government and health authorities that they take appropriate steps for the good of the people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

We see the troubles in our lives,
We wonder why things are this way
Why is there pain? Why is there loneliness?
Is there one who can help us in our need?

Look up to the Lord, put your hope in the Saviour
He showed us that to live we first must die.
Look up to the Lord, put your hope in the Saviour,
The darkness of his death has turned to light!

(or choose an appropriate alternate hymn)