

Scripture Prayer For The Week

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



Artwork Dorothy Woodward

Ordinary Time – Yr A Week 6

We Gather: Green is the current liturgical colour. In the prayer space, have the bible opened at the Gospel reading. On the stand, a number of "law" type books might be stacked-even a Catechism, Missal, etc. A small bowl of oil could be placed and people encouraged to sign themselves as they enter or leave the room.

Leader: Blessed be your name, O faithful God, for by it we are saved.

All: Anoint us so that we will speak your truth.

We Listen: The Gospel. Matthew 5:17-37 (use short form as in Lectionary)

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

"Do not swear at all; say 'Yes' if you mean yes, 'No' if you mean no."

Commentary:

The gospel passage is not derogatory about Jewish Religious practices but about an essential lack of integrity in a person or community that prevents the realisation of the just Kingdom in our everyday. Dig down deep into your heart and mind, says Jesus, go deeper than the 'Scribes and Pharisees'...and politicians, media, the egotists and self-servers, and life styles that are artificial, consumerist and trivial...down to the clear and clean truth. Anger and hate are as death-dealing as murder; self-indulgence and selfish lust as demeaning and exploitive as adultery. Jesus calls us to his level of authenticity and integrity, a worldview that will change our lives, and the lives of those around us.

We Respond: "Do not swear at all."

In silence, reflect on the questions below? Take some oil and sign yourself as you go.

- Am I satisfied, in my heart, that people can trust my words and actions?
- What is it important for me to be faithful to?
- How do I deal with broken promises...by myself or others?

Song: Where There is Love (D Haas-AOV1) or Christ in Me Arise (T Thompson-Spirit & Song-OCP)

We Go Forth: Give time to pause and savour each sentence of this prayer.

God, you spoke and your love exploded into time and matter.
You breathe, holding all things together for our good, now and forever.
This is your truth, and it is our life's meaning.
May we speak in love, act in unity and be faithful to the ways of the Kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, who is our way, our truth and our life.. Amen.