ST PAULS MEDIA pastoral ministry
AMBUHAY
MISSALETTE
FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION
SYNOD 2021-2023

Allowing God in, THROUGH AND THROUGH

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Why do we need to believe and have faith in God, especially in times when we know we cannot carry on? Despite the experiences of suffering and desolation, why should we keep the faith? When was the last time you went to the Lord full of hope, trust, and faith in His providential power?

Once, a friend of mine got hospitalized and underwent a critical condition. She is a devoted, practicing Catholic. Amidst her sickness, pain, and fear of the looming death, she still maintained a joyful demeanor. When asked about why she can still smile amidst her pain, she declared, "I know the Lord will heal me; I place my whole trust in Him since He has never failed me ever since." It took a while, but miraculously, she did recover with much prayer and perseverance.

Recently, a friend asked me to pray for him because he was preparing to take BAR examinations. I knew him as a studious and hardworking student. He spent a painful lot of sleepless nights; rarely did he go out for a drink or party to hang out with friends. He was focused on books, notes, and school requirements in preparation for his graduation and BAR exams. Fear and anxiety enveloped his conciousness for many days and nights for he felt the pressure from family and peers to successfully pass the bar exams. Though not very religious as he isn't a practicing Catholic, he was desperate for God's intervention. My encounters with my sick friend and the one who is to take the BAR examinations made me realize that when we are in dire need, our sure and only recourse is God.

The Gospel presents two points to ponder upon: First, the need to recognize the power of God, through Jesus Christ. Second is Christ's response to those who recognize and believe in His power. Faith can be likened to a particular space in life that one opens and presents to God. In entrusting of this life space, we invite God and allow him to work in our lives. The more life spaces we present to God, the more He can do wonders in our lives. But if we bring him less, we realize that we miss the point and fail to see God's abiding presence in our life. "Let it be done for you according to your faith," this is Jesus' response to the two blind man in the Gospel. Here, Jesus implies that the measure of your faith and trust in God will be the same measure that you allow Him to work in your life. The more faith we have, the more we allow God to act in our lives. If we have limited trust and belief in God, then we also limit how He works in our lives. What we ask is given according to our faith. He works with and in us according to our faith. In our day-to-day living, may we give our full trust and belief in God without even thinking twice or succumbing to our limitations. So, in putting our trust in the Lord, we allow him to work in our lives and we live without any fear for what is to come, knowing that we have placed our unwavering trust in Him.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon
[Ps 33(32):11, 19]
(Recited when there is no opening song)

The designs of his Heart are from age to age, to rescue their souls from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Greeting
(The sign of the cross is made here)

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

Introduction
(The priest may address the assembly with these or other similar words)

P—The season of Advent is a period of preparation for the coming of the Lord who will visit his people and save them from all forms of oppression. The prophet Isaiah pictures the Lord's salvation as a time of healing and deliverance. The blind shall see, and the lowly will find joy. In Jesus, who heals two blind men, the ancient dream of Isaiah is fulfilled.

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. *(Pause)*

All—I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, *(strike your breast)* **through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.
All—Lord, have mercy.
P—Christ, have mercy.
All—Christ, have mercy.
P—Lord, have mercy.
All—Lord, have mercy.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Clothe us, Lord God, with the virtues of the Heart of your Son and set us aflame with his love, that, conformed to his image, we may merit a share in eternal redemption.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.
All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Is 29:17–24) (*Sit*)

To the people broken and oppressed by tyrants, Isaiah announces the good news of God's visitation. God will again deliver his people from their oppressors, just like what he did to the Israelites in Egypt.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

THUS SAYS the Lord GOD: But a very little while, and Lebanon shall be changed into an orchard, and the orchard be regarded as a forest! On that day the deaf shall hear the words of a book; and out of gloom and darkness, the eyes of the blind shall see. The lowly will ever find joy in the LORD, and the poor rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. For the tyrant will be no more and the arrogant will have gone; all who are alert to do evil will be cut off, those whose mere word condemns a man, who ensnare his defender at the gate, and leave the just man with an empty claim. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of the house of Jacob, who redeemed Abraham: Now Jacob shall have nothing to be ashamed of, nor shall his face grow pale. When his children see the work of my hands in his midst, they shall keep my name holy; they shall reverence the Holy One of Jacob, and be in awe of the God of Israel. Those who err in spirit shall acquire understanding, and those who find fault shall receive instruction.

—The Word of the Lord.
All—Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 27)

R—The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation;/ whom should I fear?/ The LORD is my life's refuge;/ of whom should I be afraid? **(R)**

2. One thing I ask of the LORD;/ this I seek:/ to dwell in the house of the LORD/ all the days of my life,/ that I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD/ and contemplate his temple. **(R)**

3. I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD/ in the land of the living./ Wait for the LORD with courage;/ be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD. **(R)**

Alleluia (*Stand*)

All—Alleluia, alleluia. Behold, our Lord shall come with power; he will enlighten the eyes of his servants. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Mt 9:27–31)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

AS JESUS passed by, two blind men followed him, crying out, "Son of David, have pity on us!" When he entered the house, the blind men approached him and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they said to him. Then he touched their eyes and said, "Let it be done for you according to your faith." And their eyes were opened. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." But they went out and spread word of him through all that land.

—The Gospel of the Lord.
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (*Sit*)

Prayer of the Faithful (*Stand*)

P—This Advent season, let us

pray to the Father that we may prepare for the Lord's coming with prayerful expectation and vigilance, as we attend to our day-to-day responsibilities. With confidence, we pray:

R—Father, listen to your children.

C—May we look at the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look to the future with confidence—for you, Father, are the master of our history and our destiny. We pray: **(R)**

C—May You take care of the blind and those with physical impairments, so that they can turn to the You with grateful hearts. We pray: **(R)**

C—May You watch over us and deliver us from the evils of terrorism, kidnapping, and conflict of every kind. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we celebrate the Advent season by devoting ourselves to more intense prayer, to devout listening to Sacred Scripture and attentive study of it, and to building communion with each other as brothers and sisters. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we strive to form families serving life, participating in the development of society, and sharing in the life and mission of the Church. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Loving Father, bless us with a clear conscience and blameless conduct. Bring to completion the good things you have begun in us, so that we may be found worthy on the day of Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts (*Stand*)

P—Pray, brethren...
All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—O God, Father of mercies, who because of the great love with which you loved us, with untold goodness gave us your Only Begotten Son, grant, we pray, that, being perfectly united with him, we may offer you worthy homage.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Preface: The Boundless charity of Christ

P—The Lord be with you.
All—**And with your spirit.**
P—Lift up your hearts.
All—**We lift them up to the Lord.**
P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All—**It is right and just.**
P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For raised up high on the Cross, he gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out Blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church's Sacraments, so that, won over to the open Heart of the Savior, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:
All—Holy, Holy, Holy...(*Kneel*)

Acclamation

All—When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer (*Stand*)

All—Our Father...
P—Deliver us...
All—For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion (*Kneel*)

P—Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Jn 19:34)

One of the soldiers opened his side with a lance, and at once there came forth blood and water.

Prayer after Communion
(*Stand*)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Made partakers in your Sacrament of charity, we humbly implore your mercy, Lord, that we may be conformed to Christ on earth and merit to be coheirs of his glory in heaven.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All—Amen.

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
(*The prayer at the back of Sambuhay may be said immediately after communion)*

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing. *(Pause)*

May your family always rejoice together, O God, over the mysteries of redemption they have celebrated, and grant its members the perseverance to attain the effects that flow from them.

Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—Go in peace.
All—Thanks be to God.

PRAYER TO THE

SACRED HEART of Jesus

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by Your adorable lips. I come to ask these favors: *(Here, silently mention your petitions)*.

To whom can I turn if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted, protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising, and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity to those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. Amen.

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