

March 12, 2023



GOD EVER PURSUES US

We hear today of God's unrelenting pursuit of us. Our readings tell stories of God's intense desire to share the divine life with us. From Exodus, we see how God shows endless persistence and compassion, even to those who grumble against God, or seem to have forgotten God. From the Gospel of John, we hear of how Jesus, in his extended conversation with the Samaritan woman, gives her dignity, names uncomfortable truths, and gradually leads her into a new path of faith. We can have confidence that as we bring our own confusions, fears, and failings to God, we may receive God's mercy and forgiveness. God always persists and continually finds new ways to invite people into unity with God. As Paul describes in Romans, in the cross we see how God will go to any length to demonstrate the depth and breadth of divine love. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the LORD heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exodus 17:3-7).

Psalms — Listen to God's voice today; be not hardhearted (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8).

Gospel — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst again (John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30
 Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35
 Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19
 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23
 Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34
 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lk 18:9-14
 Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

MASSES FOR THE WEEK - MISAS DE LA SEMANA

Saturday

4:30pm: Bernardino Matos+, Maria Cabral+, Antonio dos Reis Matos+

6:30pm/Spanish: Maria Alsema Camarena+

Sunday

8:00am: Alicia Andes+, Maria Cabral+

10:00am: Tony Mello+, Mary Meirinho+

11:30am: Mia Jimenez Alcocer+

9:00am/(M): Daily Mass

9:00am/(T): Daily Mass

9:00am/(W): Daily Mass

9:00am/(Thurs): Daily Mass

9:00am/(F): Daily Mass

The Sacrament of Penance & Reconciliation is celebrated each Thursday, from 4:30PM-6:00PM.

The Three Lenten Disciplines: Prayer

Fasting, almsgiving, and prayer are not specifically Christian practices. Jewish piety, from which the primitive church developed, already included these three spiritual exercises. The Muslims also include these three in the five pillars of their Islamic faith. But it is Jesus himself who invites us to practice these three pillars of conversion. He reminds us that they are not done to "show off" that we are holier than everyone else. On the contrary, fasting, charitable works, and praying are done with humility (Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21). It is challenging, but we are not discouraged because the Holy Spirit comes to our aid.

The Lenten discipline of prayer can be thought of in two ways. For Christians, to pray in the first way is to speak like children to God, who loves us as mother, father, sibling, and friend. When speaking to God, we tell God what we have inside us, trusting that our words are the ones that most please God. The second approach to prayer means proclaiming with confidence our fears, problems, joys, and yearnings to God, knowing that God loves and hears us. Praying either way means spending time with God, at times talking, at times silent, but always with the assurance that we are loved. —Friar Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



The Knights of Columbus will hold their Lent Fish Fry on Friday, March 31st. Ceviche and seafood tacos will be served. Event held at the CCC. Tickets on sale after all masses and at the door or call

Joe, 916 -862-5105.



The Invitation to become an Altar Server at St. Christopher

Serving at the altar, Pope Francis has shared with the young people, is a privileged way to draw closer to Jesus, which in turn enables you to open yourselves to others. Altar Servers assist the clergy in celebrating that Sacred Liturgy, especially the sacrifice of the Holy Mass. Becoming an Altar Server gives you the opportunity to serve God, become more involved in Parish Life, and strengthen your Catholic faith. If you are in 4th grade, have received the sacrament of Holy Communion and are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please see Eva Delgado after all the Masses on March 11 & 12. A formal altar serving training session will be coordinated at a later time. For questions, please contact Eva at (209) 814-1106.

2023 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

Our youth who will be participating in the 2023 NCYC will be having a fundraising event after all the Mass on March 11 & 12. They will be selling religious items from Totally Catholic Fundraising. Proceeds made will help cover upcoming expenses for their trip. Any questions, please feel free to reach out to Eva at (209) 814-1106.

12 de marzo de 2023



LECTURAS DE HOY

Primera lectura — Agua salió de la roca para apagar la sed del pueblo (Éxodo 17:3-7).

Salmo — Escucha la voz de Dios hoy; no seas duro de corazón (Salmo 95 [94]).

Segunda lectura — El amor de Dios se ha derramado en nuestro corazón por el don del Espíritu Santo (Romanos 5:1-2, 5-8).

Evangelio — El agua que yo les daré se convierte en el manantial de vida eterna (Juan 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39, 40-42]).

LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Lunes: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Martes: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Sal 25 (24):4-5ab, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 18:21-35

Miércoles: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Sal 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

Jueves: Jer 7:23-28; Sal 95 (94):1-2, 6-9; Lc 11:14-23

Viernes: Hos 14:2-10; Sal 81 (80):6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mc 12:28-34

Sábado: Os 6:1-6; Sal 51 (50):3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab; Lc 18:9-14

Domingo: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Sal 23 (22):1-6; Ef 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

DIOS NOS BUSCA SIEMPRE

Hoy oímos hablar de la implacable búsqueda de Dios hacia nosotros. Nuestras lecturas cuentan historias del intenso deseo de Dios de compartir la vida divina con nosotros. En el Éxodo, vemos cómo Dios muestra una persistencia y una compasión infinitas, incluso con los que refunfuñan contra Dios o parecen haberse olvidado de él. En el Evangelio de Juan oímos cómo Jesús, en su prolongada conversación con la mujer samaritana, la dignifica, nombra verdades incómodas y la conduce gradualmente a un nuevo camino de fe. Podemos confiar en que, al llevar nuestras propias confusiones, miedos y fracasos a Dios, podemos recibir su misericordia y su perdón. Dios siempre persiste y encuentra continuamente nuevas formas de invitar a las personas a la unidad con Dios. Como describe Pablo en Romanos, en la cruz vemos cómo Dios se desvive por demostrar la profundidad y la amplitud del amor divino. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Las Tres Disciplinas Cuaresmales: La Oración

Yunar, ayudar y orar no son específicamente cristianas. La piedad judía de la que viene la Iglesia primitiva ya practicaba estos tres ejercicios espirituales. Los musulmanes también los incluyen entre los cinco pilares de la fe del Islam. Pero Jesús mismo es quien nos invita a practicar estos tres pilares de la conversión y nos recuerda que no se hacen para ponerse de muestra como si fuésemos más santos que los demás. Al contrario, el ayuno, la caridad y la oración se hacen con humildad (Mateo 6:1-6; 16-21). Es difícil, pero no nos desanimemos porque el Espíritu Santo viene a nuestro alcance; donde somos débiles, Cristo es fuerte. La disciplina cuaresmal de la oración se puede pensar de dos maneras. Para los cristianos, orar de la primera manera es hablar como hijos y hijas a Dios que nos ama como madre, padre, hermano y amigo. Hablando con Dios le recitamos lo que traemos por dentro confiando que nuestras palabras son las que más le agradan a Dios. El segundo enfoque de la oración significa proclamar con confianza nuestros temores, nuestros problemas, nuestros gozos y nuestros anhelos sabiendo que él nos ama y nos escucha. Orar de cualquier manera es pasar tiempo con Dios, a veces platicando, y a veces calladitos, pero siempre con la seguridad que somos amados.