

*We Respond*

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**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (Ps 137)

**ANTIPHON:** Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

**RESPONSE:** Lord, on the day I called for help, you answered me.

**LECTOR:** I thank you, Lord, with all my heart, you have heard the words of my mouth. Before the angels I will bless you. I will adore before your holy temple. **R.**

**LECTOR:** I thank you for your faithfulness and love which excel all we ever knew of you. On the day I called, you answered; you increased the strength of my soul. **R.**

**LECTOR:** The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly and the haughty he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of affliction you give me life and frustrate my foes. **R.**

**LECTOR:** You stretch out your hand and save me, your hand will do all things for me. Your love, O Lord, is eternal; discard not the work of your hands. **R.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** Alleluia, alleluia! You have received the Spirit which makes us God's children, and in that Spirit we call God our Father. Alleluia!

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** (or a hymn) Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

**Or**

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

**TODAY'S READINGS** Genesis 18:20-32; Colossians 2:12-14; Luke 11:1-13

**NEXT WEEK** (18th Sunday Year C) Ecclesiastes 1:2, 2:21-23; Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11; Luke 12:13-21

*Brighten up  
your day with  
The Majellan*

### Praying with St Gerard

St Gerard Majella, a Redemptorist brother, has long been known as a helper of families, especially expectant mothers, new mothers, and children. You can ask him to support your petition by his prayers. Your request will be sent to Redemptorist communities in Australia so that they can pray for your intention in their Masses. Details at [www.majellan.media/your-prayers](http://www.majellan.media/your-prayers)



# majellan

## *The promise of God's grace*



**24 July 2022 17th Sunday Year C**

A disciple says, "Lord, teach us to pray." In reply, Jesus offers a four-point lesson in prayer.

Firstly, Jesus invites his followers to address God as 'Father'. This would've been revolutionary! Out of respect and awe, they didn't use God's name in prayer. Now Jesus teaches that they're members of God's family; sisters and brothers who are to call God 'Father'. In Jewish society, fathers had responsibility to love and care for their wives and children; a very personal relationship. It's this kind of intimate relationship with God that Jesus invites us all to embrace.

Secondly, being sisters and brothers in God's family, we're to have concern for everyone and for the issues that are important to God's loving and merciful heart. In praying for our own needs, we're also called to broaden our perspective and see the 'bigger picture' by praying that God's love for humanity will be known everywhere and that all people will love each other and live in peace and harmony.

Thirdly, we're to be persistent in our prayer. In the first reading, Abraham asks God to spare Sodom – and he was persistent! Jesus tells his followers, "Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened" (Lk 11:9). Jesus tells them to ask their Heavenly Father who knows all their needs and they will be heard. He also reminds them that whenever two

or three of them agree to ask anything in his name, it will be granted (cf. Mt 18:19). In other words, never shy away from 'pestering' or 'bothering' God.

Finally, God gives what is good for us. Most of us have had the experience of praying for something, but God didn't answer our prayer. It's hard to accept or understand that what we're asking for may not be good for us. Jesus says that a loving Father would never give a stone to anyone who wants bread, or a snake to anyone who wants fish, or a scorpion to anyone who wants food. Jesus doesn't promise what can't be delivered and he doesn't say 'your wish is granted'. Rather, Jesus challenges us to realise "how much ... the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask" (Lk 13).

What Jesus promises is grace. He promises the Holy Spirit – to sustain us, uplift us, and help us to endure. The Holy Spirit empowers us to accept God's plan – even if it's not our plan – and to get up, go on and face another day.

St Alphonsus Liguori, the founder of the Redemptorists and a Doctor of Prayer, says that we don't pray to change God, but that God might change the one who prays and the community which prays. When we open ourselves to God's grace and action in this way, we'll be changed and become instruments of God's love.

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