

28 February 2016 – Third Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 55:1–9; 1 Cor. 10:1–13; Luke 13:1–9.

Theme: *Teach us to pray.* Adoration, Petition, Intercession.

Persevering prayer – “Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should **always pray and not give up.**” **2 Timothy 4:7**, “I have fought the good fight, **I have finished the race**, I have kept the faith.” What kinds of things characterise “*Persevering prayer*”?



I. REALISTIC.

John 16:33, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. **In this world you will have trouble.** But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

1 Peter 4:12, “Dear friends, **do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you**, as though something strange were happening to you.”

Matthew 5:4, “**Blessed are those who mourn**, for they will be comforted.” Cf. Careforce Lifekeys, *emotional honesty*.

Cantata, “Yet alas! What heavy hardship does the soul still endure here? Will not the sorely plagued breast become a wilderness and pit of martyrdom along with Jesus' most painful loss?”



II. GROUNDED.

Matthew 16:18, “And I tell you that **you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church**, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.”

1 Corinthians 3:11, “No one can lay any **foundation** other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.” You're on the winning side.

Perhaps one of the most famous photos of this particular French lighthouse, located in the Celtic Sea, North Atlantic Ocean. First constructed in 1904, it became known to the world thanks to the photographs captured during the 1989 storm by a French photographer, Jean Guichard. The lighthouse keeper (seen in the photo) heard a helicopter sound and decided to check if it was a rescue helicopter, only to find out that it was a media helicopter that was documenting the storm. **He was able to re-enter the lighthouse unharmed.**

Cantata, “I will not let go of my Jesus, since He has given Himself for me, my duty demands therefore that I cling to him like a burr. He is the light of my life, I will not let go of my Jesus.”



III. INFORMED.

John 16:23, “Very truly I tell you, my Father will give you whatever you ask **in my name**.” cf. “**Thy will be done...**”

Romans 4:20-21, “He (Abraham) did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, **being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.**”

Cantata: “My spirit looks up faithfully and to the place where faith and hope are resplendent,
where, after my completed course, I shall embrace You, Jesus, eternally.”



IV. UNITED.

Matthew 18:19, “Again, truly I tell you that **if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for**, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.”

James 5:16, “Therefore **confess your sins to each other and pray for each other** so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”



V. SPIRIT LED.

Ephesians 6:18, “**Pray in the Spirit** on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and **always keep on praying** for all the Lord’s people.”

Romans 8:26, “**The Spirit** helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but **the Spirit himself** intercedes for us **through wordless groans.**”

1 Corinthians 14:5, “I would like every one of you to **speak in tongues.**”



CONCLUSION: Realistic: *Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me.* **Grounded/Informed:** *not my will, but yours be done.*

United: *An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him.*

Spirit led: *Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.
The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.* In Jesus' name, Amen. ☺