**SOLIDARITY WITH SISTERS’ COMMUNAL PRAYER**

**SEPT. 25, 2022 – 26TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

**“The distance between ourselves and God**

**may be the distance we put between ourselves and the poor …..”**

**HELLOs** and then Betty mutes everyone.

**WELCOME Kathy Linabery**

Welcome, Everyone!

* Introductions – people who haven’t been here before?
* Norb Bufka and I prepared this morning’s prayer and thank everyone who will be reading and leading us in music and prayer: Linda Donaldson, Kathy Cavanaugh, Bill Cavanaugh, Lynn Bufka, Richard McGinnis, Peg Duchesne, Judy Sholes, Sister Jo’Ann De Quattro, and Jim De Quattro.
* If you’d like to read on future Sundays, please get in touch.

**SETTLING IN Lynn Bufka**

Let yourself settle into the quiet center in yourself. Feel the breath moving in you… in and out… loosening you… making space inside you…. In and out…. God’s own breath entering you…. uniting you with all that breathes, all that is… opening you to the Spirit moving in you…. In us…. Here….

Now **Linda Donaldson** will lead us into our prayer together.

**OPENING SONG: Gather Us In by Marty Haugen**

Here in this place new light is streaming,
Now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
Brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in – the lost and forsaken,
Gather us in – the blind and the lame,
Call to us now and we shall awaken,
We shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery,
We are the old – who yearn for your face;
We have been sung throughout all of hist’ry,
Called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in –the rich and the haughty,
Gather us in – the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly,
Give us the courage to enter the song.

**CALL TO WORSHIP/GATHERING PRAYER (Judy Sholes)** Gracious and Loving God:

We gather in gratitude. We gather as imperfect people who call and encourage one another to love, to savor God’s love, and to share it by cooperating in God’s work of creation. And so we pray:

Open our eyes so we can recognize the Lazaruses in our lives,

Open our ears to hear the names of people we meet,

Open our mouths to call people by name,

Open our hearts to welcome the stranger.

May we live the Gospel with courage, faithfulness, and love.

May the love we share close gaps, build bridges, and end the suffering that comes from isolation.

Amen

**INTRO TO THEME (Kathy Linabery)**

Last week’s theme continues to resonate as we read today’s gospel passage, which is an often unsettling parable. It is meant to bother us, to get under our skin. Both Gospel readings call for justice and care for the poor.

This is the only parable of Jesus where a character in the story has a name. When Jesus gave Lazarus a name, he acknowledged his unique, personal dignity. The wealthy man is never named and remains anonymous, defined by position and possessions rather than relationships.

Names give identity and meaning. A name is a point of connection. This morning’s reading invites us to reflect on the importance of a name: how learning each other’s name is a step toward closing any gulfs between us and those we may have overlooked. May we join our hands and hearts to, as Sister Mary McGlone says, “seize this moment to meet and greet the ‘other’, the migrant, the beggar and whoever will enlarge our circle of concern.

(pause)

Now **Richard McGinnis** will read from the 16th chapter of Luke’s Gospel verses 19-26 in the New Jerusalem Bible and then **Jim De Quattro** will offer questions that will lead us into silence.

**READING 1 – Luke 16:19-26 (Richard McGinnis)**

There was a rich man who used to dress in purple and fine linen and feast magnificently every day. And at his gate there used to be a poor man called Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to fill himself with what fell from the rich man’s table. Even dogs came and licked his sores.

Now it happened that the poor man died and was carried away by the angels into Abraham’s embrace. The rich man also died and was buried. In his torment in Hades he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off with Lazarus in his embrace. So he cried out, “Father Abraham, pity me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue. For I am in agony in these flames.

Abraham said, “My son, remember that during your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony. But that is not all; between us and you a great gulf has been fixed to prevent those who want to cross from our side to yours or from your side to ours.”

(Pause)

**QUESTIONS - 1** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Jim DeQuattro)**

What “great gulfs” do you see in your neighborhood, town, or city? Reflect on them, and what crossing them means.

Whose shoes do you put yourself in when you hear this Gospel? In what way do you identify with the rich man or Lazarus?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *(Betty: Share slide with questions, time 2:00, chime.)*

**READING 2 – (Deb Ballard)**

There is a lovely song in the 1961 Broadway musical, *Carnival*. Anna Maria Albergetti sings about Mira, her village, and the thing she liked the best about it: “Everybody knew my name! …. Can you imagine that?”

There is another song, “Another Day in Paradise”. In a 1989 music video, Phil Collins sings about ignoring people who are hungry, homeless and living in poverty. No one seems to know their names…. Can you imagine that? Let us listen and take a long, loving look….

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qt2mbGP6vFI&list=RDQt2mbGP6vFI>

**QUESTIONS - 2** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Jim De Quattro)**

The images of Earth and of the U.S. Capitol remind us that all this happens both at our doorsteps and in the context of very large systems. In what part of all this do you feel most capable of responding? Or most uncomfortable?

What is another day in paradise like for you?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *(Betty: Share slide with questions, time 2:00, chime.)*

Now **Kathy Cavanaugh** will share thoughts compiled from reflections by Sister

Mary McGlone and Dominican Father Jude Siciliano.

**READING 3 Kathy Cavanaugh**

While Lazarus and the rich man are both alive, it’s not clear if the rich man knows Lazarus, the man at his gate, by name. It’s not clear if the rich man even paid attention to Lazarus each time he came and went from home. We do know that one lived an isolated life of luxury; the other, one of dire need.

The issue here is complacency. We, too, can be indifferent to others. We can lose awareness and sensitivity to those in need, especially to those who are in our immediate surroundings. Lazarus, after all, was right at the man’s door. But through television and the Internet, the whole world is at our door. And yet we can still be complacent.

While we can’t address all the needs we become aware of, we cannot use that as an excuse for inactivity. Jesus is talking about people who fail to respond to others' suffering and needs. He is not hawking tickets for a guilt trip but trying to entice us to care - to enlarge our circle of concern. We have to discern what this Gospel says to us today on a personal and global level.

The God who speaks this parable to us is like a mother concerned about her children. You can hear her wondering: “How come the few with so much are so indifferent toward so many of their sisters and brothers who are without? Don’t they know they are a family -- my children? Don’t those who spend so much on themselves to find happiness realize that they would be truly happy if they provided more for others? There would be fewer divisions and more harmony if my children would just live as the brothers and sisters I created them to be!” The parable opens our ears so we can listen to our concerned Mother who knows and calls us by name - BELOVED SON - BELOVED DAUGHTER!

**QUESTIONS - 3** *(Pause after each question.)* **(Jim De Quattro)**

How can you change the way you respond to those around you?

How can you enlarge your circle of love?

**COMMUNAL SILENCE** *(Betty: Share slide with questions, time 2:00, chime.)* **(Betty) Peg Duchesne** will lead us in sharing our personal reflections.

**SHARING (Peg Duchesne)**

We know the wisdom of our community includes both words shared and silent listening. Now, if you’d like, we invite you to share the essence of what is emerging within you from our readings and silence. Let’s begin in silence as we gather our reflections. [Long-ish pause]

Who would like to start our sharing? Remember to unmute yourself to speak and mute yourself again afterwards.

[Sharing]

[Long silences are common and they can be fruitful. If there is extended silence after 15 minutes:] Is there anyone else who would like to share? [Long pause]

[Stop by about 11:20.]

Thank you. Let us pause for a minute of silence to hold all that has been said, and to notice what is rising in us in response. (Long pause)

Hold onto what God is saying in you right now. We can continue after the final song, as we often do. For now, let us respond to God in prayer.

**OFFERTORY (Bill Cavanaugh)**

What can you do this week to be more mindful of the needs of the people you encounter as you go about your everyday life? (pause)

God of Mercy ,

Thank you for being with us. We offer

grateful hearts for your loving embrace,

our eyes to clearly see you everywhere,

and our ears to hear you in others.

May our mouths speak your words of kindness and support

as we welcome your Spirit to guide us along the way. Amen.

**PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY (Bill Cavanaugh)**

Let’s pause to notice the prayers that arise in us now. *(Pause)* Our response will be: **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

Let us hold in reverence those who give of themselves day in and day out, especially the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and their members. For this we pray. **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

Let us call to mind the forgotten and marginalized. For this we pray. **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

For the people of Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic devastated by Hurricane Fiona, in need of food and shelter, we pray. **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

For the people of Ukraine, may we be ever mindful of their ongoing pain and suffering. For this we pray. **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

For our Jewish brothers and sisters as they enter their observance of their high Holy Days beginning Monday night. For this we pray. **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

For the immigrants seeking asylum in our country, that they be treated with respect. For this we pray. **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

In thanksgiving for your love, for the times we recognize you in one another and for your Spirit which has been poured out on all creation. For this we pray: **Holy One, help us to see you in others.**

For what else shall we pray? Please unmute yourself to speak, and mute yourself afterwards.

*[Shared prayers]* **Holy One, keep our hearts open**.

Thank you. We join in all those prayers and in the silent prayers in our hearts. Amen.

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION (Sr. Jo’Ann DeQuattro)**

O Great Love, we are humbled and emboldened to know that

you trust us to be your body in this world. We are part of that body

as we let go of all that separates us from you,

and as we embrace one another and your entire creation with merciful love.

We remember the night before Jesus died.

At dinner with friends, Jesus knew all that would soon be asked of them,

and, loving them to the end, Jesus showed them

how to care for each other as they went out into the world.

First Jesus washed their feet and said, “… as I have done for you, you should also do.” Then he looked at what was in front of them, the bread and the wine,

gifts of Earth and the work of human hands, and blessed them.

So let us, too, invite God right now into what is front and center in our lives

knowing that God will indeed enter what we offer – and bless it.

*[Pause.]*

Holy One, we entrust ourselves to you and to one another.

Make us your bread of abundance. Make us your wine of joy. Let even our fragments be plenty to share. Amen.

**Norb Bufka** will lead us in the prayer of Jesus.

**THE PRAYER OF JESUS (Norb Bufka)**

Now let us join our hearts in harmony with our family throughout the world:

***All (muted):*** Our Father, Our Mother, who unite heaven and earth, holy is your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our living bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil for the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**FINAL BLESSING (Kathy Linabery)**

It doesn’t matter how much you have, but how much you’ve shared with others.

It doesn’t matter what kind of house you have,

but whether your love has made it a home.

It doesn’t matter how many friends you can count,

but how many friends you can count on and how many can count on you.

It doesn’t matter how well you do in life, but how much good you do.

It doesn’t matter how much love you have gathered,

but how much you’ve given away.

**FINAL SONG: (Linda Donaldson)**

**Open My Eyes by Jesse Manibusan, Patrick Loomis**

Open my eyes, Lord,

Help me to see Your face.

Open my eyes, Lord,

Help me to see.

Open my ears, Lord,

Help me to hear Your voice.

Open my ears, Lord,

Help me to hear.

Open my heart, Lord,

Help me to love like You.

Open my heart, Lord,

Help me to love.

And the first shall be last

And our eyes are opened

And we’ll hear like never before.

And we’ll speak in new ways

And we’ll see God’s face

In places we’ve never known.

I live within You,

Deep in Your heart, oh Love.

I live within You,

Rest now in me.

**RESOURCES:**

* Mary M. McGlone, C.S.J.
* <https://www.ncronline.org/sunday-resource/sept-25-2022-twenty-sixth-sunday-ordinary-t>Jude Siciliano, O.P.
* “First Impressions” Sunday Scripture Reflections
* Image: <https://www.liturgytools.net/2016/09/pictures-26th-sunday-ordinary-time-year-c-lazarus-rich-man-poverty-mercy-charity-concern-for-poor.html>
* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eo6gZAUuQ3E&ab\_channel=StHelenMusic