



BE STILL

Sing Taste and see God's love for us
Taste and see God's love for us
Taste and see God's love for us,
Taste and see God's love. (GA 203)

Gathering Prayer

O God, from whom all good things come, grant that we, who call on you in our need, may at your prompting discern what is right, and by your guidance do it.
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy spirit one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew:
Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

"How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Happy the gentle:

they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn:

they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right:

they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful:

they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart:

they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers:

they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right:

theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven; this is how they persecuted the prophets before you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

MT 5:1-12

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Ponder

Re-read the gospel. Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium (2013) noted that in the presence of God, during a recollected reading of the text, it is good to practice Lectio Divina – the reading of God's word in prayer asking that it 'enlighten and renew' us. The following questions may help with this:

- Lord, what does this text mean to me?
- What is it about my life that you want me to change by this text?
- What troubles me about this text?
- Why am I not interested in this?
- What do I find pleasant about this text?
- What is it about this word that moves me?
- What attracts me?
- Why does it attract me?

Reflect

During a homily on 1 November, 2016, Pope Francis offered this reflection about the Beatitudes:

The Beatitudes are the image of Christ and consequently of each Christian. ... The Beatitudes are in some sense the Christian's identity card. They identify us as followers of Jesus, to We are called to be blessed, to be followers of Jesus, to confront the troubles and anxieties of our age with the spirit and love of Jesus. Thus we ought to be able to recognize and respond to new situations with fresh spiritual energy. Blessed are those who remain faithful while enduring evils inflicted on them by others, and forgive them from their heart. Blessed are those who look into the eyes of the abandoned and marginalized, and show them their closeness. Blessed are those who see God in every person, and strive to make others also discover him. Blessed are those who protect and care for our common home. Blessed are those who renounce their own comfort in order to help others. Blessed are those who pray and work for full communion between Christians. All these are messengers of God's mercy and tenderness, and surely they will receive from him their merited reward.

Accessed: https://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2016/documents/papa-francesco_20161101_omelia-svezia-malmo.html

PRAY

Loving God,
Encourage the poor in spirit
Care for the gentle
Draw close to those who mourn
Encourage those who hunger and thirst for what is right
Care for the merciful
Draw close to the pure in heart
Encourage the peacemakers
Draw close to those who are persecuted in the cause of right
And bless us in our journey.
Amen.