

Thursday Week 11B

First reading: Sir 48: 1-14;

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 34: 4-7, 16-19;

Gospel: Mt 6: 7-15

Theme: Praying and Living the Lord's Prayer

The word of God for our reflection today, focuses on prayer; Christ gives us a model of how we are to pray. Christ tells us there is no need to say endless prayers because God knows our needs before we ask.

It is good to reflect on the reasons for which we pray. Praying is not for God's sake but for our own. It is important for us to become deeply aware of our needs, fundamental helplessness, and total dependence on God who is FATHER so that when God grants them, we know they have been granted. We also need to learn precisely what God wants from us so that we can do what he wants.

The Lord's Prayer is about what he wants from us. The Lord's Prayer is a simple but compact prayer. It is a model prayer. It is a prayer of faith about our relationships with God, the world, and the people around us.

Strictly speaking, it is not a prayer to be recited. It is a way of praying; it is a list of the things we need to pray about. It is a very challenging and daring prayer to make. If this model prayer, the Word of God itself, was to really enter our hearts and minds, we would become deeply transformed people. We need to pray it, phrase by phrase - and live it.

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