

CELEBRATE SABBATH

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lord bless me with forbearance that I may make space and time for myself to forgive myself and to heal my brokenness.

1 Kings 17:10-16

Elijah had followed the Lord's direction and gone to live east of the Jordan and had escaped a severe famine. The Lord provided him with food and drink. Elijah listened to God's word again and moved to Zarepath. Once again, the Lord provided for him through the kindness of a widow. And the widow and her son found blessings from the Lord for her kindness to the prophet.

Psalms 146

The Psalmist calls us to praise God, not just for an hour in song.....but with the whole of our being at all times and in all places. Because as the last verse says. "The Lord reigns forever" and His reign can be trusted. To reign is to care - verses 8-9 proclaim this confidence. **God is a God who keeps "faith" forever - He is the living God.** Therefore, God is worthy of our trust. He calls all people to do what God does and that is the way we are to praise God. We are to learn to be like Him and do what He does. Amen.

**The Lord keeps faith forever,
Secures justice for the oppressed,
Gives food to the hungry,
The Lord sets the captives free.**

Hebrews 9:24-28

This excerpt will be more meaningful if the whole chapter is read. The author tries to establish that the work and sacrifice of Christ is supreme, unlike the sacrifice of any high priest before him. This was a sacrifice that purified and redeemed the whole universe. Christ did not just enter the sanctuary made by human being; he entered into the very presence of God. He entered the presence of God, not only for his own sake, but also for ours. His sacrifice need not be repeated – the way to God is opened for ever. The high priests before Christ had to offer the sacrifice again and again to atone for the things that blocked the way to God.

Christ is the mediator of a new Covenant. Christ has entered the eternal sanctuary and he appears before God on our behalf. Through Christ we receive the promised eternal inheritance.

Mark 12:38-44

The scribes and the Pharisees knew what was good, right and just. But they failed to live according to the knowledge they had. They said the right things, but did not live them. They made an impression on others as righteous people. They lived pretentious lives. Jesus challenged his disciples to live honest lives, to be faithful to the truth they had come to know, to place themselves at the service of others, to honor God rather than seek their own honor and glory, to find honor in serving others rather than being served.....

Honor God with your lives, not with your lips! Make every effort to practice what you preach and be faithful to what you have come to know as truth.

Jesus pointed to a poor widow who gave generously “from her want” as an example for all to follow. Her “two small copper coins” became a model of generosity for all generations because she gave from “what she had to live on” while many of the wealthy gave “sizable amounts from their surplus”.

Be gracious! Give and give generously! Don't wait for times of surplus!

Saint of the Day, November 10 - Pope St. Leo the Great and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Saint Leo the Great, also known as Pope Saint Leo I, was born into a Roman aristocratic family in Rome, Italy around the year 400. He was the first pope to be given the title "the Great." Details pertaining to Leo's place of birth are not known, but it is believed that his ancestors come from Tuscany.

St. Leo the Great became a very well-known deacon of the Church by 431, serving the church under the pontificate of Pope Celestine I. Leo was widely respected for his love for the Lord, intelligence and persuasive nature. He was also gifted in bringing reconciliation between disputing groups of Christians. He was often sent out to settle disputes, both secular and theological.

Leo was unanimously elected as pope to succeed Pope Sixtus III in 440. Pope Leo was deeply dedicated to his service as pope. He tirelessly fought to preserve the unity of the

Church and its faith; and to ensure the safety of his people against invasions from armies which sought to destroy the Church and the Christian influence. Pope Leo I worked to oppose and root out numerous heresies which were threatening the Western Church. Among them were Pelagianism, which denied the necessity of God's grace for salvation and Manichaeism which denied the goodness of the human body, creation, and saw even matter itself as evil.

Pope Leo also resolved the doctrinal controversy regarding the nature of Jesus. His famous letter articulated the Church's official teaching on Jesus Christ as One Person with a human and a divine nature which could not be separated.

Along with his dynamic faith and outstanding theological wisdom, Pope Leo I was also courageous. Attila the Hun and his huge army and the later Invaders terrified the emperor and his generals as well as the citizens of Italy. The gentle, scholarly Pope Leo the Great met them unarmed and alone, trusting in divine providence. His courage and faith persuaded Attila and the later invaders to turn away from Rome. Two years later, he had to meet the Vandals and plead for mercy. He was unable to prevent them from taking the city but managed to get them to agree not to loot it, burn its buildings or murder its people. In between invasions, he helped the Church to understand why it celebrates feasts and holy seasons. Many of his homilies encouraged people to provide for the poor. He trusted God, he loved the Church, he loved people, he was gentle and courageous, he was great. He died on November 10, 461 in Rome, Italy

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