

# Sunday Readings

## 2nd March 2025

### Gospel Acclamation

Ac16:14

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Open our heart, O Lord,  
to accept the words of your Son.  
Alleluia!

### Collect

Grant us, O Lord, we pray,  
that the course of our world  
may be directed by your peaceful rule  
and that your Church may rejoice,  
untroubled in her devotion.  
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.

### FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8

When a sieve is shaken, the refuse appears; so a person's filth in his thoughts. The kiln tests the potter's vessels; likewise the test of a person is in his reasoning. The fruit discloses the cultivation of a tree; so the expression of a thought discloses the cultivation of a person's mind.

Do not praise a man before you hear him reason, for this is the test of people.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 91:2-3,13-16. R/. cf. v.2

### R/. It is good to give you thanks, O Lord.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to make music to your name, O Most High,  
to proclaim your love in the morning  
and your truth in the watches of the night. **R/.**

The just will flourish like the palm tree  
and grow like a Lebanon cedar. **R/.**

Planted in the house of the Lord  
they will flourish in the courts of our God,  
still bearing fruit when they are old,  
still full of sap, still green,  
to proclaim that the Lord is just.  
In him, my rock, there is no wrong. **R/.**

### SECOND READING

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 15:54-58

Brothers and Sisters: When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?'

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

### GOSPEL

Luke 6:39-45

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.  
*Glory to you, O Lord.*

At that time: Jesus told his disciples a parable: 'Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye", when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite! First take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

'For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit, for each tree is known by its own fruit. For figs are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of his heart produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*



### Prayer over the Offerings

O God, who provide gifts to be offered to your name and count our oblations as signs of our desire to serve you with devotion, we ask of your mercy that what you grant as the source of merit may also help us to attain merit's reward. Through Christ our Lord.

### Prayer after Communion

Nourished by your saving gifts, we beseech your mercy, Lord, that by this same Sacrament with which you feed us in the present age, you may make us partakers of life eternal. Through Christ our Lord.

# The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year C

## Preparing for Lent

## Saint of the Week

**H**ow do you prepare for Lent? How have you prepared in the past? What are your ideas about what should happen during Lent?

We have the traditional Catholic practices of praying, fasting, and almsgiving. So, we pray more than usual, or we pray with different emphases. We eat smaller or fewer meals or give up a favorite food or drink group. We give more of our resources or give them specifically to special works of mercy during Lent. Prayer, fasting, and charitable giving continue to be quite good practices during Lent or at any time.

But, you might think, how do I prepare myself for this season? What needs to happen within so that I can practice with more integrity and intention whatever I'm doing on the outside?

There are plenty of ideas for actions and practices during Lent; coming up with ideas usually is not the problem. But we don't want to do anything simply to be doing it, even if it's a good thing. We don't want to make a list of merciful works so that we can place a checkmark beside each one as we accomplish it. It's good to have a plan for doing. It's also good to have a plan for being.

How do I want to be during Lent this year? More quiet and thoughtful? More open to God's desires? Better able to sit with people who need me? More attentive to sacred readings, whether in church or in private? Do I need to be more compassionate toward my own fears and failings? Do I need to become more courageous about using the gifts God has given me?

In the days prior to Lent, try one or more of these suggestions.

Ask God, every day, "What does my soul need?" Just ask, and wait quietly. Because we're very good at fooling ourselves about how we're doing, it might take several days of praying this question before we're truly open and humble enough to know the answer.

Ask God, every day, "What about my life makes you happy?" Yes, when God looks at your life, some parts of it—perhaps many aspects of it—bring joy to God's heart. Think of how those close to you make you happy. God is in relationship with you, which means that your growth and love and freedom and kindness bring joy to God of the universe. Again, you will probably need to pray this a few times. Stick with this little prayer and keep listening.

Tell God, and yourself, every day, "I want to be open to the graces of this Lenten season." Maybe you're not open at the moment, or you're not as open and willing as you'd like to be or think you should be. We can always open our lives a bit more, let go of things, listen better, and do more quickly and passionately what we know helps nurture God's kingdom on earth.

This is a beginning: three short and simple prayer starters to ready yourself for the holy season.

**Sunday 2 March 2025**

**St Chad (-672)**

Chad was born in Northumbria, one of four brothers, all of whom became priests. He was educated partly at Lindisfarne under St Aidan and partly in Ireland. He succeeded his brother St Cedd as Abbot of Lastingham in Yorkshire in 664. He became Bishop of Mercia in 669 and Wulfhere, first Christian King of Mercia, gave him land to establish his see at Lichfield. Chad was outstanding for his humility and simplicity of life. He died of the plague on 2 March 672. He was at once venerated as a saint and his shrine in the Cathedral of Lichfield was a place of pilgrimage throughout the Middle Ages. At the Reformation, some of his bones were preserved and handed down by recusant families in the Midlands: in 1841 they were enshrined in the new Cathedral consecrated in Birmingham in that year and dedicated to Saint Chad.

## Prayer of the Week

### A Celtic Prayer

Grant, O God, thy protection,  
and in protection, strength,  
and in strength, understanding,  
and in understanding, knowledge,  
and in knowledge, the knowledge of justice,  
and in the knowledge of justice, the love of it,  
and in that love, the love of all existences,  
and in the love of all existences, the love of God,  
God and all goodness.  
Amen.

