

## Scripture Reading

### **A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans (Romans 8:31b-33)**

If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

### **Reflection – Unfailing hope is found only in God**

**There is so much turmoil, conflict and uncertainty in this world but God is always in charge no matter how bad it seems.** *Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world...” (cf. John 18:36).* Through St. Paul, God tells us that His kingdom is one of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (cf. Romans 14:17). Though evil is widespread in this world, and the world is temporarily given over to the Prince of the World – God’s Enemy and the enemy of our souls - Christ through His Blood on the Cross has already conquered and delivered us from sin, death and hell. In Christ we are more than conquerors (cf. Romans 8:37). The weeds representing evil have been sowed by the Enemy, the devil and have been allowed to grow alongside the wheat to maturity as pulling up the weeds may uproot the wheat (cf. Parable of the Weeds: Matthew 13:24-30). But the time will come when the Lord will tell the harvesters (the angels): “First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.” (cf. Matthew 13:30). God’s kingdom starts in human hearts and as surely as the wheat are growing, the Kingdom is also growing surely and silently through God’s own power. **It is comforting to remember God watches over us and never sleeps (cf. Psalm 121:3-4).**

**God alone is unchanging. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).** Under the influence of the evil one, the world continues to deviate more and more off the path of righteousness into chaos, conflict and godlessness. But Jesus Christ, His Power, His Divinity, His glory, His Love, His Mercy, His Word, His Promises all remain unchanged. He is the Eternal Truth that withstands the test of time for He is the Eternal One. It is the same Jesus who used His last breath to beg forgiveness for us from His Heavenly Father as He lie dying on the Cross. With the same burning love, Jesus still yearns for all of us to be saved as He has already opened the gates of Heaven for us.

**Will God withheld anything good from us after giving up His Son for us (cf. Romans 8:33)?** Jesus Christ is the object of God’s sole complacency. Even then, His love for us has seen Him delivering His own Son into our human hands to be cruelly crucified and put to death. After giving up His own Son, will not God let us have the things we need and that are good for us? Through His Word, He tells us many times (365 times in the Bible) not to fear, promises that He has prepared a place for us in Heaven (cf. John 14:2), He will never forget us (cf. Isaiah 49:15) and will always be with us (cf. Matthew 28:20).

**Am I discouraged by my own weaknesses?** *Jesus said, “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” (Luke 5:32).* For our salvation, Jesus was borne incarnate as a little baby as He wishes to share and understand our human weaknesses. God has shown that with an open heart to Him, His power and love can flow in torrents to transform our lives. St. Peter denied Jesus three times publicly but went on to become the first Pope of Christ’s Church. St. Paul started out persecuting Christians but ended up being Christ’s Apostle to the Gentiles. The same Paul who used to lament about his human weaknesses can proclaim, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me from within” (cf. Philippians 4:13).

### **Conversation with Jesus**

Precious Lord, I come before You in all my weaknesses and sinfulness, and I place all my hope and trust in You, mankind’s only hope. In the sea of conflict, chaos and mindlessness around me, You are my safe harbour, my refuge of real peace and security. No matter what happens, Your love and mercy never change. My life and soul are held in the power of Your hands which uphold the whole universe. I wish that my heart can sing of Your goodness every moment, and I embrace Your Sacred Heart with the love and adoration of my Blessed Mother Mary. Mary, Protectress of the Faith teach me to have an unfailing hope in the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.