

Reflect for 17th Sunday in Ordinally Times

**Genesis 18:20 – 32.

**Psalm 138: 1- 3, 6- 8.

**Colossians 2: 12- 14.

**Luke 11: 1- 13.

In the Gospel reading today, the disciples find in Jesus a man of intense prayer and in deep communion with God the Father. Observing his practice of prayer, his disciples asked him to teach them also to pray.

Our Lord Jesus Christ taught his disciples a prayer that has become the classical example for all prayers.

In the Lord's prayer, there are six petitions grouped into two parts.

The first three petitions that make up the first part concern God: "hallowed be you name," "your kingdom come", and from Matthew's version, "your will be done" (Mt 6:10).

The other three petitions are about our needs: "give us each day our daily bread," "forgive us our sins" and "do not lead us into temptation".

The prayer as taught by Our Lord Jesus Christ is an expression of our filial trust in God who is our loving Father.

In this prayer he taught us is an expression of praise and thanks to God our Father for his goodness, giving glory due to his name.

It is an expression of our longing to fulfil his will in our lives and in the world. This prayer is an expression of our spiritual and material needs to our loving Father who knows our needs even before we ask.

Above all, it is an expression of our longing for the forgiveness of our offences. In this prayer is an expression of our willingness to forgive others who have offended us.

My dear friends, wants us to pray as a community, to stand as a community of people, (pronounces "us" and "our") before God our loving Father.

In the first reading today, we find Abraham prayed many times to God for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. We are called to pray for one another. Community centered and not self-centered prayer.

Peace be with you all!

Fr. Elias Udeh.