***OCTOBER REFLECTION 2023***

***Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.***

***Invocation*** *(Make the sign of the cross as the leader prays the invocation.)*

Leader: *+ Blessed are those who mourn,*

***All: for they will be comforted.***

*Leader: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

***All: As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.***

***Psalm 71:1-6, 15, 17 (pray antiphonally)***

***In you, LORD, I take refuge;***

***let me never be put to shame.***

***In your justice rescue and deliver me;***

***listen to me and save me!***

***Be my rock of refuge,***

***my stronghold to give me safety;***

***for you are my rock and fortress.***

***My God, rescue me from the hand of the wicked,***

***from the clutches of the evil and violent.***

***You are my hope, Lord;***

***my trust, GOD, from my youth.***

***On you I have depended since birth;***

***from my mother’s womb you are my strength;***

***my hope in you never wavers.***

***My mouth shall proclaim your just deeds,***

***day after day your acts of deliverance,***

***though I cannot number them all.***

***God, you have taught me from my youth;***

***to this day I proclaim your wondrous deeds.***

***Scripture*** *Soon afterward he journeyed to a city called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd accompanied him.* *As he drew near to the gate of the city, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the city was with her.* *When the Lord saw her, he was moved with pity for her and said to her, “Do not weep.”* *He stepped forward and touched the coffin; at this the bearers halted, and he said, “Young man, I tell you, arise!”* *The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.* *Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, exclaiming, “A great prophet has arisen in our midst,” and “God has visited his people.”* *This report about him spread through the whole of Judea and in all the surrounding region.*

Luke 7:1-17

**(Pause for a few moments to meditate on the reading.)**

***Reflection*** *To live the second beatitude we need the virtue of compassion. Compassion, derived from cum + passio, suffering with, is the ability to suffer with others and do something about it. It goes beyond empathy or pity, for the compassionate person not only feels the pain, but lives it as something his or her own and tries to do something about it.*

*Pope Francis speaks of the globalization of indifference, while aid agencies speak of compassion fatigue. We are exposed to so much suffering in the world around us that there comes a point when we feel we cannot take any more. Our hearts gradually become insensitive, closed to the pain of others.*

*Now is a good time to look into our hearts and find out whether this happens to us too, and why. Perhaps we feel too guilty at the injustice, or believe that in our modern world there is no place for pain, life should be all about joy and success; or we are so overwhelmed by our own problems that we feel we cannot cope with more. Or simply we have become so self-centered that we cannot care less.*

*The real challenge does not lie in ridding the world of all its suffering, but in keeping an open heart in a suffering world. A heart that weeps with those who weep, and rejoices with those who rejoice, be they far or near. A compassionate heart will then find ways to reach out and express its compassion in concrete ways.*

*When Jesus invites us to be like our Father in heaven, he tells us to be like him in compassion. He himself shows compassionate to an extreme, even when this came at a high price for him and his followers. By his wounds we have been healed, in the ultimate show of his compassion of the Cross.*

[*https://jesuitreflections.wordpress.com/home/blog/cracking-the-beatitudes-to-be-able-to-mourn-we-need-compassion/*](https://jesuitreflections.wordpress.com/home/blog/cracking-the-beatitudes-to-be-able-to-mourn-we-need-compassion/)

***Prayer Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,***

***the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,***

***who comforts us in all our troubles,***

***so that we can comfort those in any trouble***

***with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.***

***Sign of the Cross***

