

Connecting Music to Mass
October 15, 2016

Today's readings are found at #1178 in the hymnal.

Why do we hear so many extraordinary teachings from the scriptures in a season with a mundane name like Ordinary Time? In a way, there is *nothing* ordinary about Ordinary Time. On the other hand, these teachings are supposed to reflect our lives as disciples – our **ordinary** day-to-day lives. We continue this week with the virtue of faith. It's nice to hear topics such as faith expanded upon over a period of three weeks or so, as each week addresses a different aspect. This week we focus on how prayer feeds our faith.

The opening hymn (repeated from two weeks ago) draws us into today's readings with echoes of faith and trust. As I mentioned two weeks ago, this is a paraphrase of Psalm 90 by 18th century poet Isaac Watts. The text declares that God was, is, and always will be our rock. It declares the timelessness of God. In the first reading, Moses holds up his staff so that Israel will be strengthened in battle. While the battle is the more exciting part of this reading, the real action is happening on the hill with Moses and the staff. Remember, this is the same staff that parted the Red Sea; the same staff he struck against a rock, causing water to flow from it. This isn't an ordinary staff, it represents God's presence and power throughout the journey of the Israelites. In a way, the staff is sacramental – a visible sign of the invisible.

The gospel parable tells us that our persistent prayer does not fall on deaf ears. As Jesus puts it, if a self-serving judge gives in to the persistence of another, then of course our just and merciful God willing to be attentive to our prayer. This takes us back to the opening hymn which praises God for his faithfulness to us **because** of our faithfulness to him.

Just as we proclaim God as timeless in the hymn "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," so are the divine-inspired scriptures timeless. St. Paul's message to Timothy is certainly applicable to us 21st century disciples. *"...proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching."* We see from this scripture as well as the gospel how **persistence** is essential in our faith journey. Certainly through daily prayer, praying the Mass, celebrating the sacraments, and studying of the scriptures we are persistent in developing our relationship with God. If you're lacking in one of these areas, don't wait for Lent to push you to make an improvement in your spirituality, start **today!**

And speaking of timelessness, what a better to praise God than with the beloved hymn "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" as we depart from this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass!

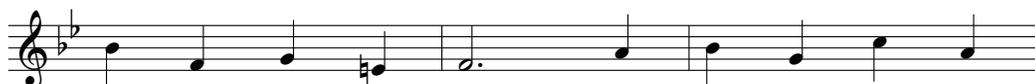
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[Click here - Sunday Readings for October 16, 2016](#)

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our
2. Un - der the shad - ow of your throne Your
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, Or
4. A thou - sand a - ges in your sight Are
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, Bears
6. O God, our help in a - ges past, Our



hope for years to come, Our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; Suf - fi - cient is your
 earth re - ceived its frame, From ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, Short as the watch that
 all our years a - way; They fly for - got - ten,
 hope for years to come, Still be our guard while



storm - y blast, And our e - ter - nal home.
 arm a - lone, And our de - fense is sure.
 you are God, To end - less years the same.
 ends the night Be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 as a dream Dies at the o - p'ning day.
 trou - bles last, And our e - ter - nal home.