

Lessons 1– Sept 22

Fall 2023; Instructor: Michael Bromley

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Opening prayers

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, have mercy on me a sinner

Prayer of St. Thomas, Patron of Students

(adapted from Fr. Guy de Gaynesford, [St. Paul Repository](#))

Almighty God, who is called the true source of
light, and fullness of wisdom,
Be pleased to grant a beam of your radiance upon
the darkness of my mind,
and dispel from me the double darkness of sin
and ignorance in which I have been born;

You who made eloquent the tongues of little
children, fashion my words,
and pour on my lips
the grace of your blessing;

Grant me penetration to understand,
capacity to retain, method and facility in study,
subtlety in interpretation,
and abundant grace of expression.

Order the beginning, direct the progress,
and perfect the achievement of my work,

You who are true God and true man,
and live and reign forever and ever.

Amen

Other prayers

[Come, Holy Spirit](#)

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.

Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created,
and you shall renew the face of the earth.

Let us pray.

O God, who have taught the hearts of the faithful
by the light of the Holy Spirit,
grant that in the same Spirit we may be truly wise
and ever rejoice in his consolation.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

[Prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ Crucified](#)

Behold, O good and loving Jesus, that I cast myself on
my knees before you and, with the greatest fervor of
spirit,

I pray and beseech you to instill into my heart
ardent sentiments of faith, hope and charity,
with true repentance for my sins
and a most firm purpose of amendment.

With deep affection and sorrow

I ponder intimately and contemplate in my mind
your five wounds, having before my eyes
what the prophet David had already put in your mouth
about yourself,

O good Jesus:

They have pierced my hands and my feet;
they have numbered all my bones (Ps 22:17-18).

I. Interpreting Scripture properly and fully

- explicit v. implicit
- examples, lessons, instructions

- AKA, *God don't play: no loopholes in Scripture !*

To consider:

- **FIRST COMMANDMENT**

I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange gods before me

- Extension: if you love God, you'll follow all the other Commandments and "reject everything that is opposed" to our faith in God ([CCC 2088](#))
- Jesus clarifies:
 - "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." ([Mt 22:24-40](#))
 - See also [Mt. 5:17-19](#): "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill."

- **SECOND COMMANDMENT**

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

- Extension:
 - "Nothing exists that does not owe its existence to God the Creator" ([CCC 338](#))
 - all things of God are Holy
 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" ([Jn 1:1](#))
 - "the Word incarnate"
 - words = substance (versus "nominalism" which holds that words are just words)
 - "word" = "verb" = "predicate"
- Jesus clarifies:
 - But I say to you, do not swear at all ... Let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and your 'No' mean 'No.' Anything more is from the evil one." ([Mt 5:33-37](#))

- **FOURTH COMMANDMENT**

Honor your father and your mother

- Extension: obey all legitimate authority
 - "We are obliged to honor and respect all those whom God, for our good, has vested with his authority" ([CCC 2197](#))
 - Jesus clarified: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's (Mt 22:21; [CCC 2242](#))"

- **SIXTH COMMANDMENT**

You shall not commit adultery

- Extension: what qualifies as “adultery”?
 - [CCC 2520](#): “Baptism confers on its recipient the grace of purification from all sins. But the baptized must continue to struggle against concupiscence of the flesh and disordered desires. With God's grace he will prevail.”
 - i.e., “don’t let that bird land”
 - Jesus clarifies: “*But I say to you that every one who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart*” ([Mt 5:28](#))
- **“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”** ([Mk 1:14-15](#))
 - “Baptism is the principal place for the first and fundamental conversion. It is by faith in the Gospel and by Baptism that one renounces evil and gains salvation, that is, the forgiveness of all sins and the gift of new life ([CCC 1427](#))
 - Extension: Sacrament of Penance ([CCC 1422](#))
 - Jesus clarifies:
 - The merciful father: “*But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.*” ([Lk 15:32](#))
 - see also [CCC 1441-1445](#)
 - What about living without Reconciliation?
 - “They should be encouraged to listen to the Word of God, to attend the Sacrifice of the Mass, to persevere in prayer, to contribute to works of charity and to community efforts for justice, to bring up their children in the Christian faith, to cultivate the spirit and practice of penance and thus implore, day by day, God's grace.” ([CCC 1651](#))
- **Misc. wisdom of the Bible not fully appreciated by the modern world...**
 - Research shows that it takes [21 days to defeat a bad habit](#) and 21 days to build a new, positive one
 - *uh, that’s about 40 days...*
 - DNA, [Mitochondrial Eve](#), [Y-Chromosome bottleneck](#), Big Bang, etc.
 - *DNA = God’s imprint w/ imparted knowledge upon birth*
 - Impact of [broken families on life outcomes](#) (or not: see John:4, 1-30, Woman at the Well)
 - *God hates separation*
 - ***What’s your favorite example of the Bible outwitting the modern world?***

II. What do you know?

Some vocabulary

amen	eschatological	paschal
anointed	idolatry	penitence
bridegroom	invention	pious
catholic	justification	propitiate
cathedral	laity	repent
catechism	liturgy / liturgical	righteous
Chi Rho	Magisterium	sacred / sacrament
confirmation	oblation	testament
concupiscence	parochial	venial
creation/ creature		

Some other common or theological terms

"Jesus"	Alpha & Omega
"Christ"	cardinal virtues
"Peace be with you"	covenant
Triune, Trinity	eschatological
"the Way"	sacrifice
INRI	typology

What do you think about while...

- making the Sign of the Cross...?
- listening to unfamiliar Readings at Mass...?
- the Priest says the Eucharistic prayers...?
- your Theology teacher or catechist drones on and on...?

Some strategies for focus:

1. Apply your Prior Knowledge
2. Apply it to a personal experience
3. Think of some questions about what you are hearing
4. Put the Lord in your place, or yourself in the place of the Lord.

III. Typology

Background

- “Senses of Scripture”
 - *Literal sense*: “the meaning conveyed by the words of Scripture and discovered by exegesis, following the rules of sound interpretation” (CCC 116)
 - *Scriptural sense*: “Thanks to the unity of God’s plan, not only the text of Scripture but also the realities and events about which it speaks can be signs” (CCC 117)
 - *allegorical sense*: significance of events in Christ; *allegorical* = figurative, “speaking beyond”
 - *moral sense*: “for our instruction” (1 Cor 10:11); moral = right principles and behavior
 - *anagogical sense*: the “realities and events in terms of their eternal significance; *anagoge* = “leading”

literal	allegorical
moral	anagogical

- from Augustine of Dacia (13th Century; CCC 118):
 “The Letter speaks of deeds; Allegory to faith;
 The Moral how to act; Anagogy our destiny”

Typology

- The Old Law is a preparation for the Gospel. "The Law is a pedagogy and a prophecy of things to come." (St. Irenaeus) It prophesies and presages the work of liberation from sin which will be fulfilled in Christ: it provides the New Testament with images, "types," and symbols for expressing the life according to the Spirit. (CCC 1964)
- ex. **Adam > Noah > Abraham > Moses > David > Christ**

Christ CCC 58: Christ to “gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad”	Fulfillment of the Old Covenant (CCC 1544)
	Adam (Rm 5:14; 1 Cor 15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>imago dei</i> • sonship • Adam was priest, prophet, king <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • priest: keep and till the land • prophet: give names to creation • king: dominion over the earth
	Abel : murdered by his own brother for his righteousness Noah : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rising waters = baptism • the ark = the Cross, the Church, Mary • Noah is the savior of mankind • Dove = the Holy Spirit Melchizedek : the high priest, prefigures the Eucharist when he “brought out the bread and wine” (CCC 1333) David : the King
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life of Christ: baptism, betrayal, 	Abraham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promised land

crucifixion, and resurrection, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needed a son • offering Isaac <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac the willing victim • God provides a lamb instead of Isaac
	Joseph <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lost to his father, then comes back as consul of Egypt • rejected by his own brothers/ Hebrews • betrayed for silver
	Moses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basket in the Nile (Christ, baptism) • parting of the Red Sea (baptism) • Passover (blood on the lintel of each house) • 10 Commandments (Jesus fulfills the Law) • snake on the pole • manna (“The real bread from heaven”, Jn 6:26) • Aaron’s rod, striking water from the rock, raising his hands
	Jonah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-days in the belly of the whale (Jonah called the belly of the fish a grave or “the land of the dead”) • Jonah’s call to the Assyrians for repentance
	David <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uniting (gathering) the tribes • the Ark is put in neutral ground, Jerusalem • sacrifice to restore the relationship w/ God • the Temple = Jesus
The Prophets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John the Baptist • the Apostles
Mary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ark of the Covenant • Eve & crushing the snake
Water / Baptism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holy Spirit (Genesis) • parting of the Red Sea • The Flood
Wood / The Cross	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree of Knowledge & the Tree of Life • Noah’s Ark • Isaac carrying the wood for his own sacrifice • Moses’s staff (parting the Seas, striking the rock) • the bronze serpent on the pole

The Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Bride of Christ • salvation, “the world reconciled (CCC 845) • Noah’s ark • the bark that “by the breath of the Holy Spirit, navigates safely in this world”
Eden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Tree = the Cross • Mt. Ararat (Noah) • Mt. Sinai (Moses)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mt. Tabor (Moses, Elijah) • Jerusalem / Mt. Zion (David) • Calvary
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Scattering	Gathering
Fall of Man (evicted from Eden)	Jesus
Cain	Abel
Babel	Pentecost
The Flood	Noah and the dove Christ's baptism (the dove) (CCC 701)
the Tribes of Isreal	David gathers the Tribes
<i>break covenant</i>	<i>repair covenant</i>

Covenant

- = agreement with God
- Abrahamic Covenant sealed by cutting the animal in half and walking through it
 - = "cross my heart and hope to die"
- Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David (and Jeremiah?)
 - God never breaks his side of the bargain
 - Jesus fulfills our side

IV. The Mass: "Heaven on Earth"

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See: <https://bit.ly/45ZYVhB>

V. The Creed in depth

- See: CCC Part I: [The Profession of Faith](#)

Notes