



*“To attain spiritual enlightenment and become a person of recollected interior life, you should take one or the other of holy Scripture and, for as long a period as possible, concentrate on that alone all your power of attention and meditation; then the light of understanding will be revealed to you.”* **The Way of a Pilgrim**, Billy, pg. 150

### Statement of Intention for Centering Prayer

Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier,  
alive at the center of our being, we  
wish to surrender in love to You.  
May our sacred word,

which we will gently pray  
when we engage with our thoughts,  
be a sign and symbol of our intention to  
consent to Your Divine Presence  
And Action within.

### *Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

#### **Reading 1 Ez 33:7-9**

Thus says the LORD:

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me.

If I tell the wicked, “O wicked one, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death.

But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

#### **Responsorial Psalm Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9**

**R. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.**

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD;  
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.  
Come, let us bow down in worship;  
let us kneel before the LORD who made us.  
For he is our God,  
and we are the people he shepherds, the flock he guides.

**R.**

Oh, that today you would hear his voice:  
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as in the day of Massah in the desert,  
Where your fathers tempted me;  
they tested me though they had seen my works.”

**R.**

#### **Reading II Rom 13:8-10**

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no evil to the neighbor; hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

#### **Gospel Mt 18:15-20**

Jesus said to his disciples:

“If your brother sins against you,  
go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.  
If he listens to you, you have won over your brother.  
If he does not listen,  
take one or two others along with you,  
so that ‘every fact may be established  
on the testimony of two or three witnesses.’  
If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church.  
If he refuses to listen even to the church,  
then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

Amen, I say to you,  
whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven,  
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

