



Prayers on the Occasion of the Canonisation of
St. Br. Solomon Leclercq

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Reader 1: Once the monarchy had been overthrown early in the French Revolution, the next target was the Church. In 1790 the Civil Constitution of the Clergy gave the state complete control over the Church in France. In order to continue to function, priests and religious were forced to take an oath to support the constitution. Most of the Brothers refused and so were forced gradually to abandon their schools and communities. Eventually the Institute was deprived altogether of legal status in France.

(From <http://www.lasalle.org/en/who-are-we/lasallian-holiness/blessed-solomon-leclercq/>)

Leader: Let us remember that we are in the most holy presence of God.
(pause)

Reading For Reflection

From “The Cost of Discipleship” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Cheap grace is the deadly enemy of our Church. We are fighting today for costly grace. Cheap grace means grace sold on the market like cheapjacks’ wares.... Cheap grace is the grace we bestow on ourselves.... Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.... Costly grace confronts us as a gracious call to follow Jesus. It comes as a word of forgiveness to the broken spirit and the contrite heart. Grace is costly because it compels a man to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: “My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Opening Song:

Pastoral (Bukas Palad)

I am your reed, sweet shepherd, glad to be
Now if you will, breathe out your joy in me
And make bright songs or fill me
With the soft moan of your love
When your delight has failed
To call or move your flock from wrong
Make children songs or any song to fill
Your reed with breath of life
But at your will
Lay down the flute and take repose
While music infinite
Is silence in our heart
And laid on it you reed is mute

(YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LdjS-LDFa8>)

Reader 2: On 15 August 1792, Brother Solomon sat alone in his Paris school. He had been asked to mind the house while other Brothers left the turbulent city for the safety of the suburb.... A loud knock on the door was the first sound of warning. A number of soldiers demanded entry to search the house. It was a thorough search for incriminating documents, and, though they found nothing, Brother Solomon was ordered to collect his belongings and follow them. (From 'Seven De La Salle Brothers' published by the District of ANZPPNG)

Scripture Reading (Daniel 3: 1-2, 4-6, 8-18)

King Nebuchadnezzar had a golden statue made, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, which he set up on the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. King Nebuchadnezzar then summoned the satraps, magistrates, governors, counsellors, treasurers, judges, lawyers, and all the provincial authorities to assemble and attend the dedication of the statue set up by King Nebuchadnezzar.

A herald then loudly proclaimed: 'Peoples, nations, languages! Thus are you commanded: the moment you hear the sound of horn, pipe, lyre, zither, harp, bagpipe and every other kind of instrument, you will prostrate yourselves and worship the golden statue set up by King Nebuchadnezzar. Anyone who does not prostrate himself and worship will immediately be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.'

Some Chaldaeans then came forward and maliciously accused the Jews. They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'May Your Majesty live for ever!

You have issued a decree, Your Majesty, to the effect that everyone on hearing the sound of horn, pipe, lyre, zither, harp, bagpipe and every other kind of instrument is to prostrate himself and worship the golden statue; and that anyone who does not prostrate himself and worship is to be thrown into the burning fiery furnace.

Now, there are certain Jews to whom you have entrusted the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego; these men have ignored your command, Your Majesty; they do not serve your gods, and refuse to worship the golden statue you have set up.' Shaking with fury, Nebuchadnezzar sent for Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego. The men were immediately brought before the king.

Nebuchadnezzar addressed them, 'Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego, is it true that you do not serve my gods, and that you refuse to worship the golden statue I have set up? When you hear the sound of horn, pipe, lyre, zither, harp, bagpipe and every other kind of instrument, are you prepared to prostrate yourselves and worship the statue I have made? If you refuse to worship it, you will be thrown forthwith into the burning fiery furnace; then which of the gods could save you from my power?' Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-Nego replied to King Nebuchadnezzar, 'Your question needs no answer from us: if our God, the one we serve, is able to save us from the burning fiery furnace and from your power, Your Majesty, he will save us; and even if he does not, then you must know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your god or worship the statue you have set up.'

(Pause for reflection)

Psalm: Psalm 62

Antiphon: God alone is my strength, the source of all my hope.

In God alone there is rest for my soul, from him comes my safety; God alone is my rock, my safety, my stronghold so that I stand unshaken.

How much longer will you set on a victim, all together, intent on murder, like a rampart already leaning over, a wall already damaged?

Trickery is their only plan, deception their only pleasure, with lies on their lips they pronounce a blessing, with a curse in their hearts.

Rest in God alone, my soul! God is the source of my hope. God alone is my rock, my safety, my stronghold, so that I stand unwavering.

In God is my safety and my glory, the rock of my strength. In God is my refuge; trust in God, you people, at all times. Pour out your hearts to God, our refuge.

Ordinary people are a mere puff of wind, important people a delusion; set both on the scales together, and they are lighter than a puff of wind.

Put no trust in extortion, no empty hopes in robbery; however much wealth may multiply, do not set your heart on it.

Once God has spoken, twice have I heard this: Strength belongs to God, to you, Lord, faithful love; and you repay everyone as their deeds deserve.

Glory be...

Antiphon: God alone is my strength, the source of all my hope.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:11:12a, 10 (In Choirs)

Blessed are you when men curse you and persecute you, and speak every evil against you because of me.

Rejoice, be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.

Blessed are those who suffer persecution for the sake of justice.
For your reward will be great in heaven.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit...

Reader 3: Under escort, he walked a short distance to Saint Sulpice where a sort of tribunal had been set up, and where his arrival seemed to be expected. The interrogation was formal, ending with the question: 'have you taken the oath?' The answer was: 'No'. That was all.... It was all pre-arranged. A massacre gang was assembled at the Champ de Mars 'to give effect to the will of the people'. They had been commissioned to do the deed in return for money and the clothes of the victims. (From 'Seven De La Salle Brothers')

Prayer Intentions

As children of God, let us together pray for a more just and equitable society. For each intention we pray: Father, may your kingdom come.

Brother Solomon occupied a position of leadership in the Institute. May we be inspired by his spirit of service and generosity, we pray.

(Response)

Let us pray for people around the world who are prevented from practicing their faith. May the Lord look kindly on those who are persecuted and come to their aid, we pray. **(Response)**

Let us remember those who are criticised and maligned for standing up for human rights. May they find strength and comfort in the example of our Lord and in saints like Brother Solomon, we pray. **(Response)**

For whom else shall we pray?

Our Father...

Closing Prayer

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we thank you for the gift of St. Brother Solomon to our Institute. We pray that his example of humble service and fidelity inspire us to live our own commitments in the same manner. Show us the ones who are in need of our talents and presence. Grant us the generosity, wisdom, and courage to respond accordingly. This we ask, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Glory and Praise to Our God (Dan Schutte)

Glory and praise to our God
Who alone gives light to our days
Many are the blessings He bears
To those who trust in His ways

We the daughters and sons of Him
Who built the valleys and plains
Praise the wonders our God has done
In every heart that sings

In His wisdom He strengthens us
Like gold that's tested in fire
Though the power of sin prevails
Our God is there to save

Every moment of every day
Our God is waiting to save
Always ready to seek the lost
To answer those who pray

God has watered our barren land and spent his merciful rain.
Now the rivers of life run full for anyone to drink.

(Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YculmbiRhME>)

Prayer to the Founder

In your providence, Lord God,
You chose Saint John Baptist de La Salle
to educate the young in Christian faith.
Raise up, Lord, in the church of today
teachers who will devote themselves wholeheartedly
to the human and Christian education of youth.
We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



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