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# This week meditations on liturgical texts from Skynia Magazine

# June 13-19

The Gregorian calendar

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## **Stages of meditation**

Please find below some schematic prompts for each stage of the meditation on the Word of God. <u>Read more.</u>

## 1. Reading

- Read the text
- What does it tell by itself?
- Clear up the context
- Look up the comments
- Find the key-phrase

## 2. Meditation

- What is my here and now?
- What does the Word tell me?
- Use your imagination
- "Digest" the text
- The Word and my life

## 3. Prayer

- What will I say in response?
- Recognition and request
- Gratitude and glorifying
- Prayer in the Word
- My participation in the Divine Liturgy

## 4. Contemplation

- A call to conversion
- Now I am silent
- Staying in the presence of God
- Now He is guiding me

# **Biblical readings and meditations**

June 13

Sunday 3

Romans 5: 1-10

- <u>Reading</u>
- Meditation
- <u>Prayer</u>
- <u>Contemplation</u>

Matthew 6: 22-33

#### Romans 5: 1-10

Brethren, therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to

God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.

#### Matthew 6: 22-33

And the Lord said: "The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

## Meditation

Today's Gospel excerpt tells us about the eye as the lamp of the body. The eye reflects the light living in the heart. And if the heart is darkened, the eye will show that. Since the eye keeps watching the reality around, but sees it the way the heart interprets it. Then the eye will not see clearly.

The eye is not just one of the five senses that allow the reality to enter an individual. It also constitutes a body (both physical and spiritual) from which light or darkness living inside come. The light and shadow projected on everything around. If peace resides in a person, (s)he will manage to see some occasions for making the deeds of peace around. If war lives in a person, (s)he will not see anything but for the war.

Those guided by the good will manage to drag the hidden good out of one's neighbour – in spite of the solid shall one may face at the beginning. And vice versa, those full of bitterness and anger will treat everyone as an enemy.

We are responsible for what we spread: light or darkness. And we emit what our hearts are full of. It does not happen any other way. Even if we console ourselves with the illusion that it is enough to put on a false smile in order to improve the situation. Jesus has said: *I am the light of the world!* That is what we have to fill ourselves with, as well as with all those things that show Him to us.

When we go to the beach, we have to get rid of heavy clothes, a whole heap of stuff looking attractively, but, in fact, deceitfully. We have to get rid of the things that would impede our movement, to expose our skin to the sun shining for us. The son God orders to shine for every human, righteous or non-righteous, for the light in the heart to win over the darkness. Then we will see the world with different eyes, in the different light. Let us ask God for the mercy of being able to safeguard our hearts and to see our darkness to expose it to God's light. Wash my eyes with your Word and your grace for your light to enter me via them.

Monday

Romans 9: 18-33

Matthew 11: 2-15

- Reading
- Meditation
- <u>Prayer</u>
- <u>Contemplation</u>

#### Romans 9: 18-33

Brethren, so then he has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses.

You will say to me then, "Why then does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" But who indeed are you, a human being, to argue with God? Will what is molded say to the one who molds it, "Why have you made me like this?" Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one object for special use and another for ordinary use? What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience the objects of wrath that are made for destruction; and what if he has done so in order to make known the riches of his glory for the objects of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—including us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles? As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.'" "And in the very place where it was

said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they shall be called children of the living God."

And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the children of Israel were like the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them will be saved; for the Lord will execute his sentence on the earth quickly and decisively." And as Isaiah predicted, "If the Lord of hosts had not left survivors to us, we would have fared like Sodom and been made like Gomorrah."

What then are we to say? Gentiles, who did not strive for righteousness, have attained it, that is, righteousness through faith; but Israel, who did strive for the righteousness that is based on the law, did not succeed in fulfilling that law. Why not? Because they did not strive for it on the basis of faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, as it is written, "See, I am laying in Zion a stone that will make people stumble, a rock that will make them fall, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

#### Matthew 11: 2-15

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the leper are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them.

#### Meditation

What are we looking for? This question constitutes the essence of today's Gospel excerpt. John the Baptist also doubts, the same as we do, absolutely *fairly*, spontaneously, on a frequent basis... Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another? Why does such a question arise? That is because it is difficult for us to accept God who is different from His image that we have in our minds. That is because we are tempted to strive for God who would have the same feelings and tastes as we do, who would also be a bit revengeful in his "justice". We want to have God after our image and likeness. What am I going to look at? What am I looking for when I go on a pilgrim journey or to the Mass? Jesus does not give a straightforward answer to our questions: yes or no, - since He does not want to take our freedom away. A person accepts God and agrees with Him only if (s)he interprets the signs pointing to the essence of Jesus, who He is in the right way. Jesus brings both material and spiritual salvation, since the poor have good news brought to them.

Since our God is not a revenger, He likes the poor (the sick, sinners, pagans) with all His heart, and, therefore, appears to them, shows His real face to them – the face of Love. With His small and simple, pure heart He shows His wisdom. Human life stands for permanent movement towards the understanding of even greater discoveries of the essence of the world and death. Our life, only if rooted in Christ, will become the History of Salvation. Since Christ, the Word that has become the Flesh, has the words of eternal life. Only in Him are we going to find the water that will quench our thirst, the

bread of eternal life, the light that will enlighten our words, the sense of our life, the truth that will make our truths clear, the path that will determine the goal for our paths. We are called to realize that we are God's pencils with which He is writing His History of Love. It is not that God is our fellow worker, but vice versa. We have to learn to be the salt, and not the honey of the earth.

**Tuesday** 

Romans 10:11 - 11:2

- <u>Reading</u>
- Meditation
- <u>Prayer</u>

Matthew 11: 16-20

• <u>Contemplation</u>

#### Romans 10:11 - 11:2

Brethren, the scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world."

Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry."

Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."

But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

#### Matthew 11: 16-20

And the Lord said: "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent.

## Meditation

Though John is more than just a prophet (cf. Matthew 11:9), and Jesus is the Messiah, *this generation* rejects them like children who won't play. The expression *this generation* embraces all those who are not capable of hearing, seeing and producing adequate judgments. Jesus challenges the people of *this generation* that they are like naughty children who want to be left alone and do not want to be forced to make their choice. They reject one way of action, but also do not act the opposite way. That becomes a trial for their insincerity and bad will.

Joyful songs inviting to dance symbolize the deeds of Jesus, His proximity and presence in the life of sinners. The tears point to the Precursor and his ascetical life. Both faced the rejection of *this generation*.

The generation of rejection avoids the strict life of the Precursor, accusing him of being possessed. The accusations of Jesus are related to His involvement in the life of tax collectors and sinners (see Matthew 9: 11), since He offered grace and mercy to all. The accusation of being *a glutton and drunkard* is the accusation of idleness and parasitism.

Jesus has a justification for such an offensive, strict and humiliating accusation – His deeds. Matthew speaks about the deeds of great wisdom, while Christ is the very wisdom.

And wisdom is vindicated by her deeds. Wisdom is the sign of God's actions in the creation of the world and in history. It shows God's will which allows to cognize oneself via the Holy Spirit.

The relations of Jesus with sinners, their acceptance – this manifestation of God's will on which He grounds His actions – turn into seduction. Seduction is born since with His behaviour He destroys the walls *this generation* has been consistently erecting between it and others to preserve its privileges.

Wednesday

Romans 11: 2-12

Matthew 11: 20-26

- Reading
- <u>Meditation</u>
- Prayer
- <u>Contemplation</u>

#### Romans 11: 2-12

Brethren, God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars; I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." But what is the divine reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written, "God gave them a sluggish spirit, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and keep their backs forever bent."

So I ask, have they stumbled so as to fall? By no means! But through their stumbling salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their stumbling means riches for the world, and if their defeat means riches for Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

#### Matthew 11: 20-26

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done, because they did not repent. "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you."

At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will."

#### Meditation

Today in the Word of God Jesus reproaches the cities where He preached and performed a lot of wonders. *Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!* He also reproaches Capernaum, the city

where He Himself settled after baptism, and prophesies its tragic destiny: *You will be brought down to Hades!* Instead, He assures that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon, and even for Sodom than for it.

The residents of Tyre and Sidon were considered by the people of Israel to be their enemies and the enemies of their faith. Old Testament prophets prophesied that those cities would become a ruin. However, Jesus did not ignore those cities and their residents. He came to the *district of Tyre and Sidon* many a time. And the residents of Tyre and Sidon came to Jesus for help. It is there that Jesus healed the Canaanite woman's daughter.

Sodom is known for its numerous sins. *Now the people of Sodom were wicked, great sinners against the Lord* (Gen 13:13). In that city not even ten righteous persons could be found, for whose sake God promised Abram not to destroy him.

Why does then the Lord tell that the situation will be more tolerable for those cities on the day of judgment? What can be a greater evil than such obvious sinful deeds as the ones committed by the residents of Sodom?

Probably, the residents of those cities used to live in their sins from generation to generation since nobody revealed the truth of their sin to them. Probably, they did not know that Christ, the Savior of the World, was supposed to come. Probably, they considered that only the chosen people, and not they could be rescued. Probably, their sins were a certain escape or search.

Lack of repentance in one's heart, conscious non-acceptance of God is worse than those sins. The residents of the cities where Jesus was preaching did not accept His teachings. They were waiting for the Messiah the prophets had been telling about, but Jesus did not correspond to their idea about the Savior. They witnessed the miracles performed by Jesus, but they rejected the acts of God in them. They considered themselves too righteous, too smart to accept Christ's teachings. Their hearts were not capable of repentance and conversion.

Thursday

Romans 11: 13-24

Matthew 11: 27-30

#### Romans 11: 13-24

Brethren, now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I glorify my ministry in order to make my own people jealous, and thus save some of them. For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead! If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; and if the root is holy, then the branches also are holy.

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place to share the rich root of the olive tree, do not boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember that it is not you that support the root, but the root that supports you. You will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand only through faith. So do not become proud, but stand in awe. For if God did not spare the natural branches, perhaps he will not spare you. Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's

- Reading
- Meditation
- Prayer
- <u>Contemplation</u>

kindness toward you, provided you continue in his kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. And even those of Israel, if they do not persist in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again. For if you have been cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree.

## Matthew 11: 27-30

And the Lord said: "All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

## Meditation

Our God is the king of heaven and earth. He is worth being glorified. All the glory, power and might belong to Him. People fail to wisely manage the earth. There is not enough power to dispose of the heavenly goods and graces in an eco-friendly way. We forget about God, about His mightiness, about His incredible proximity.

God is not afraid of becoming smaller to squeeze into human body. Moreover, the king of kings likes everything small, weak, miserable, and even rejected. Today the Lord comes to us as a mother to her babies. Babies don't speak. Don't Overintellectualize with their mother and about their mother. Babies honestly cry since they need this, since they feel pain, since they cannot cope with things.

Jesus, we are tired since we are vulnerable. The global paw is pressing us from all sides. We are tired of looking for justice in the world, of the daily evil and aggression on the earth, painful divisions and confrontations among people. O Lord, protect us. Our souls will feel relieved in You. Take us on Your hands for us to be able to restore our energy leaning to Your breast. Your yoke is Love for us. We are Your most precious burden. The dumbbells Christ likes.

Let us, given to drink Christ's blood as God's milk, rest on Your wounds. Look at God, at His smile. Lend an attentive ear to His word. Feel His touch, His aroma. Jesus, You are the only one who can disclose to us the whole truth about the kingdom of God, all the truth about the Creator! We are Yours!

The king of kings has a tender and humble heart. Jesus, make my heart like Yours. Give me the power to love people waiting for no love in return. Give me the courage to draw upon the love coming from You. Give me the wisdom to opt for the love that does not look for its own, does not make undue parade of itself, does not take revenge. Let me be a beggar of love in the world. Do not let me become the slave of people.

God, I am just Your servant! I want to serve only You! You are inviting me to cooperate with You via the Holy Spirit ... Those redeemed at a high price and thirsty of God are called to become the rivers of Life-Giving Water on the earth. Amen!

Friday

Romans 11: 25-36

- Reading
- <u>Meditation</u>
- <u>Prayer</u>
- <u>Contemplation</u>

Matthew 12: 1-8

#### Romans 11: 25-36

Brethren, so that you may not claim to be wiser than you are, brothers and sisters, I want you to understand this mystery: a hardening has come upon part of Israel, until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved; as it is written, "Out of Zion will come the Deliverer; he will banish ungodliness from Jacob." "And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

As regards the gospel they are enemies of God for your sake; but as regards election they are beloved, for the sake of their ancestors; for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

"Or who has given a gift to Him, to receive a gift in return?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen.

#### Matthew 12: 1-8

At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the sabbath." He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? He entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests. Or have you not read in the law that on the sabbath the priests in the temple break the sabbath and yet are guiltless? I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. For the Son of Man is lord of the sabbath."

#### Meditation

A human is the highest value for God. This value should not be well-deserved. It cannot be removed or destroyed.

Jesus did not violate the commandments. But when His disciples got hungry, He did not ban them from plucking heads of grain. Certainly,

Jesus respected the Sabbath, but it was more important for Him to satisfy people's hunger than to comply with the prescriptions concerning working on the Sabbath. Jesus takes care not just about human soul, but about body as well. Otherwise He would not have healed all the sick people approaching Him, would not have multiplied bread and fish.

The Pharisees complain to Jesus about His disciples. They see some hungry people eating raw heads of grain and do not share bread with them, but criticize them. They do not see the need of others, but try to find faults with them.

Jesus does not reject rules and traditions, but He wants to put everything to the rights places. He shows what is most important, and what is secondary. To give food to the hungry, to give water to the thirsty, to help the ones in need is more important than traditions and rules. To console the upset, to listen to the worried, to cheer up the timid, to calm down the scared, to tell a good word and to smile at the neighbour is more important than sacrifices.

*I desire mercy, not sacrifice,* – Jesus tells me today. And He is the example of mercy. Jesus forgives the sins I repent about. And I want to forgive my neighbour his fault before me. Jesus tells the truth, teaches the Word of God. And my words are to support, and not to offend. Jesus heals people. And I want to help those in need, to relieve them from their sufferings.

It is impossible to love God whom you don't see, without loving the people around. Since God loves everyone, every person is important for Him. How can one assess or judge someone who is important for

God? The devil is the one to condemn and complain about the children of God on a permanent basis. He is our enemy.

How can one teach a person who does not know how to behave in a temple, and not notice the joy the angels in heaven derive from the fact that this person has come to the temple in search of God?

How can one point to a person's sin, if you don't see and tell how God loves this person, wants to accept, to forgive and to give a blessing to him/her?

Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, the Lord of mine and of everything that has been created.

Saturday

Romans 6: 11-17

Matthew 8: 14-23

- Reading
- Meditation
- <u>Prayer</u>
- <u>Contemplation</u>

#### Romans 6: 11-17

Brethren, so you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

#### Matthew 8: 14-23

When Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she got up and began to serve him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and cured all who were sick. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah, "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases."

Now when Jesus saw great crowds around him, he gave orders to go over to the other side. A scribe then approached and said, "Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." Another of his disciples said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.

#### Meditation

*Teacher, I will follow you wherever you go.* The task of every Christian is to follow Jesus Christ. A disciple must humbly pray and keep asking Jesus, resiliently, on a daily basis, to show Himself, to inspire him/her to take new paths and forms. To refresh and give life to our calling. A disciple must humbly bow to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to give prompts as to what the path for the performance of our salvation mission stemming from our calling is going to be today.

The forms must change, and that is good that they change. But one should find relevant forms meeting the times of modern humans. But who is to prompt these forms to us? Definitely, not our heart, our will, or our desires. That is the task of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit only. It is only the two of them that interpret and know the will of the Father and His eternal Wisdom. Communion with Christ and the Holy Spirit in the prayer is the path on which we will open up and gain the necessary knowledge of the form of our calling, that would meet the requirements of the time, the requirement for each stage of our life.

Today Jesus gives two forms that have been in existence for ages and will never change. Those who give themselves to Jesus for the sake of the salvation mission need to forget about their bodies and their needs. The Father will take care of the body. His Providence will take care of all the essential things. The Providence will take care of it, feed it, and give everything it needs to perform the mission of salvation. And here is another rule. Those sacrificing themselves to the Lord already cannot belong to their own feelings and desires, even relevant and holy ones. The feelings and desires must be handed over to Christ. He will take care of them. He will calm them down. We will satisfy God's feelings and desire of salvation, while He will calm down our human feelings and desires. For us not to neglect anything we could do for other's sake. Let us ask the Lord for the mercy of sacrificing ourselves fully to the Father, for us to perform our calling, since that is where our real happiness is.

# What is Skynia Magazine?

**Skynia Magazine** is published with the purpose to help its readers meet the Lord with the help of the Bible.

This is why on most pages of the magazine our readers can find daily meditations on the Word of God: biblical readings according to the liturgical calendar of the UGCC. These meditations are the fruit of the personal prayer of their authors: priests, nuns and laity, who strive to live in the rhythm of the life of the UGCC, trying to tackle present-day issues.

Bible verses are cited according to the New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition.

#### We offer digital subscriptions:

- in English and Ukrainian
- according to Gregorian, Julian and New Julian calendars

# For individual readers

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- E-mail letters (Sundays and feasts)
- E-mail letters (daily)
- Telegram letters (daily)

# For parishes and other groups

- You can print or upload to your website a PDF document with the meditations from Skynia Magazine so that parishioners or members of your community could easily download it.
- Or we will send you a QR code and a button/banner for your website with a link to a registration form of a special e-mail letter for your parishioners or community members.

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