



*A vigil on the eve of the Synod and  
the feast day of St. Therese of Lisieux*

October 1, 2024  
Basilica di Santa Prassede

**Opening Song**

"Same Baptism, Same Spirit, Same Calling"  
by Jessica Gerhardt

O God of truth and justice  
You tear down every wall  
Same baptism, same Spirit,  
same calling for us all

Where our deep gladness meets the world's need  
Where our deep listening reveals your voice  
May our whole church see we are one body  
In every calling let us rejoice (*chorus*)

If every flower looked like the roses  
Nature would lose the beauty of the spring  
Let us embrace each and every wildflower  
Let us celebrate the joy that each one brings (*chorus*)

**Opening Prayer:** adapted from Bishop Patricia Fresen, RCWP, and read by Angela Nevitt-Meyer, RCWP

**First Reading:** Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built Her house.  
She has hewn Her seven pillars.  
She has dressed Her meat and mixed Her wine.  
Yes, She has spread her table.  
She has sent out the women who serve Her  
to invite all in.

Woman Wisdom herself cries out  
from the heights above the town:  
"You who need direction, turn in here."

To those who lack understanding,  
She calls:  
"Come, eat of my bread  
and drink of the wine I have mixed!  
Lay aside ignorance, and live;  
follow the way of insight."

The Word of a Judean Wisdom writer.  
***Thanks be to God.***

**Psalm:** Psalm 34:9; 10-11; 12-13

Response: ***Taste and see that God is good.***

Taste and see that God is good!  
Blessed are those who take shelter in God's house,  
who receive hospitality from the Holy One.

***R: Taste and see that God is good.***

Show your humility, holy ones of God,  
for those who honor God want for nothing.  
Even the rich will grow weak and hungry,  
but those who seek God lack no good thing.

***R: Taste and see that God is good.***

Come, children, and listen to me. I will teach you the love of God. Do you love life?  
Come, Beloved!  
Relish the chance to delight in your days!

***R: Taste and see that God is good.***

**REFLECTION:** Zuzanna Radzik, TEKLA & CWC

Response: ***We affirm our sister: Same baptism, same Spirit, same calling!***

**Second Reading:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-22, 24b-26

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.

As the human body is one, but has many parts; and as all the parts of the body, though many, are one single body, so it is with the Christ. We were all baptized by one Spirit to form the one body of Christ, Judeans or Greeks, enslaved or free; and we were all given the one Spirit to drink; and the body of Christ is not made up of one part, but of many.

Now if the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason stop being part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as God wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be?

There are many parts, but one body. The eye can't say to the hand, "I have no need of you!" And the head can't say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body often deemed "weaker" are indispensable in the body of Christ...

God has put the body together, giving greater honor to the parts that were not given honor, so that there should be no division in the body, so that its parts should have equal concern for one another. Thus, if one part suffers, every part suffers. If one part is honored, all rejoice together with it.

The Word of the Apostle Paul.

***Thanks be to God.***

**REFLECTION:** Lehlohonolo Makhetha, CWC

Response: ***We affirm our sister: Same baptism, same Spirit, same calling!***

**Gospel:** Luke 18:1-8

A Reading from the Gospel attributed to Luke.

***Glory to You, O God.***

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not lose heart.

He said: "In a certain city, there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to the judge with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time, she was refused by the judge. But, finally, the judge thought, 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

Jesus said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. Will not, then, God bring about justice for God's chosen ones, who cry out in prayer day and night? Will God keep putting them off? I tell you, they will get justice, and quickly. However, when the Chosen One comes, will anyone with faith be found on Earth?"

The Gospel of God.

***Praise to You, Jesus the Christ.***

**REFLECTION:** Rev. Jean Marchant, RCWP

Response: ***We affirm our sister: Same baptism, same Spirit, same calling!***

**Prayers of the Faithful:**

*Each prayer begins with a quote from the Instrumentum Laboris 2 for the Synod, followed by a prayer intention.*

Response: ***Journeying God, hear our prayer.***

**Renewal of Baptismal Promises:**

*After each question, please respond: **I do.***

**Blessing the Water:**

**ALL: Blessed are you, Divine Wisdom,  
for stirring waters and challenging us  
to step into the pool.**

**Blessed are you, Wellspring of Life,  
for hovering over the waters.**

**Blessed are you, Ever-Flowing Stream,  
for bringing rain to dry lands.**

**Blessed are you, Risk-Takers,  
for rolling away stones of injustice  
so water can flow to quench thirsty souls.**

**Blessed are you, Eternal Spring,  
for filling our jars with the divine gift of water.**

**Blessed are you, Healing River,  
for sending amazing grace to your people.**

**Amen.**

*All are invited to come forward to bless themselves with water as a sign of their baptism.*

**Closing:**

May God bless our persistence, may God sustain us in the promises of baptism, and may God's Spirit enliven us to live the Gospel with courage and joy.

And may God who is Source, Sojourner, and Spirit, bless us all. ALL: **Amen.**



Founded in 1975, the **Women's Ordination Conference** is a grassroots-driven movement that promotes activism, dialogue, and prayerful witness to call for women's ordination and gender equity in the Roman Catholic Church.

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Founded in 1996 at the First European Women's Synod in Austria, Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW) is an ecumenical network of national and international groups whose primary mission at this time is the admission of Roman Catholic women to all ordained ministries.

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