



St Paul of the Cross: Born in Liguria, Paul (1694-1775) gave up his worldly goods and looked after the poor and the sick. After becoming a priest he spent himself in apostolic works and practiced austere mortification.

First Reading: (Rom 6:12-18) Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. Do not yield your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but yield yourselves to God as men who have been brought from death to life, and 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? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to any one 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 who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

Ps 123

R./ Our help is in the name of the Lord

Gospel: (Lk 12:39-48) Jesus said to his disciples: "Know this, that if the householder had known at what hour the thief

was coming, he would not have left his house to be broken into. You also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an unexpected hour." Peter said, "Lord, are you telling this parable for us or for all?" And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and wise steward, whom his master will set over his household, to give them their portion of food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master when he comes will find so doing. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed in coming,' and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, and to eat and drink and get drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know, and will punish him, and put him with the unfaithful. And that servant who knew his master's will, but did not make ready or act according to his will, shall receive a severe beating. But he who did not know, and did what deserved a beating, shall receive a light beating. Every one to whom much is given, of him will much be required; and of him to whom men commit much they will demand the more.

REFLECTION

Jesus comes to us every moment of our lives. His intimacy with us and his presence in us is expressed by the message about his coming. His loving presence is always with us and it should not evoke any fear and anxiety in us. But it demands from us vigilance and alertness. We must be vigilant and alert to ourselves. We need to examine ourselves and see whether we go through our life without true and deep commitment to Jesus and his values. Do we use our God-given talents and abilities for the loving service of others? **We are accountable to God about how we use our time and abilities for his glory!**