

SACRED STORY



January 19, 2014

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Encouragement & Wisdom

*E & W reflections are additional helps for your Sacred Story prayer journey.
Reflect on them at week's beginning or outside of your 15-minute prayer periods.*

The Affirmations

Christ, who has walked before me, knows my every hope.

St Therese of Lisieux wrote that the very fact that we have holy desires means that God intends to fulfill them. In other words, by faith, our hopes are guaranteed by God's love for us. This simple message has always deeply moved me and given me hope when I am tempted to doubt. This assurance awakens me to the falsehood of my fears and to the truth of God's promise to save, to bind up, to bring about for all of us a new heavens and a new earth.

The Lord Jesus knows all our hopes because he is the source of those hopes. He will bring them to pass. Whenever we think that love is not possible, that we will never contribute anything of value to the world, that our time and our luck has run out - whenever we succumb to this darkness, we must find that spark of hope deep in our hearts and realize that God will be faithful. God will be faithful and our hope is not in vain. For Christ who has walked before me, knows my every hope, and will bring them to pass in ways unimaginable.

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the source and the ultimate object of our hope. Thank you for guaranteeing that our hearts desires will be fulfilled by you. Thank you for being our Savior. Let us always hold fast to hope and in this we will find you always in *Creation, Presence, Memory, Mercy and Eternity.*



*I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.*

(Psalm 40: 2)



"God is love"
(1 Jn 4:16b)