

# Liturgy for Sr. Thecla

June 18 1932 - March 24 2020



# Opening Prayer



In your hands, O Lord,  
we humbly entrust  
our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them  
with your tender love;  
deliver them now from every evil  
and bid them eternal rest.

The old order has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise,  
where there will be no sorrow,  
no weeping or pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy  
with your Son and the Holy Spirit  
forever and ever.  
Amen.

Read by Stephen De Souza





# Opening Song - “*Hold On to Love*”

## **Verse 1:**

There is a place for the sadness. Hold on  
to Love.

There is a season of gladness. Hold on  
to Love.

When pain and confusion seem endless,  
hold on to Love.

We cultivate healing through kindness.  
Hold on to Love.

## **Chorus:**

Hold on to Love where hope is found.

Hold on to Love, where joy abounds.

Hold on to Love, where grace and  
mercy’s overflowing.

Hold on to Love.

# Opening Song - (cont...)



## Verse 2:

When terror and fear overwhelm us,  
hold on to Love.

Courage and faith will sustain us. Hold  
on to Love.

When violence seeks to destroy us, hold  
on to Love.

Acts of compassion restore us. Hold on  
to Love.

## Chorus:

Hold on to Love where hope is found.

Hold on to Love, where joy abounds.

Hold on to Love, where grace and  
mercy's overflowing.

Hold on to Love.

# Opening Song - (cont...)



## Verse 3:

When hatred is used to divide us. Hold  
on to Love.

Wisdom and truth reunite us. Hold on  
to Love.

When prejudice poses as freedom, hold  
on to Love.

Dignity means “all are welcome!” Hold  
on to Love.

## Chorus:

Hold on to Love where hope is found.

Hold on to Love, where joy abounds.

Hold on to Love, where grace and  
mercy’s overflowing.

Hold on to Love (x2)



# First Reading

Wisdom 3:1-9



Read by Nicole De Souza

A reading from the Book of Wisdom  
The souls of the just are in the hand of God,  
and no torment shall touch them.  
They seemed, in the view of the foolish, to be dead;  
and their passing away was thought an affliction  
and their going forth from us, utter destruction.  
But they are in peace.  
For if before men, indeed they be punished,  
yet is their hope full of immortality;  
Chastised a little, they shall be greatly blessed,  
because God tried them  
and found them worthy of himself.  
As gold in the furnace, he proved them,  
and as sacrificial offerings he took them to himself.  
In the time of their visitation they shall shine,  
and shall dart about as sparks through stubble;  
They shall judge nations and rule over peoples,  
and the LORD shall be their King forever.  
Those who trust in him shall understand truth,  
and the faithful shall abide with him in love:  
Because grace and mercy are with his holy ones,  
and his care is with his elect.  
The Word of the Lord.

# Psalm

Response:

*The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want (x2)*





A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the  
Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

We know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent,  
should be destroyed,

we have a building from God,  
a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

We are always courageous,  
although we know that while we are at home in the  
body we are away from the Lord,  
for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Yet we are courageous,  
and we would rather leave the body and go home to  
the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him, whether we are at  
home or away.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of  
Christ,

so that each may receive recompense,  
according to what he did in the body, whether good or  
evil

The Word of the Lord.

# Second reading

2 Cor. 5:1, 6-10

**Read by Maureen Mbashu**





# Gospel

Matthew  
25:31-40



A reading from the gospel according to Matthew

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

The Word of the Lord

**Read by Miccaya Fernandes**

# Prayers of the Faithful

The response is ***Lord hear our prayer;***

- ❖ For all those suffering from any sickness or illnesses, may they find peace and comfort. *We pray to the Lord;*
- ❖ For those who serve You, O Lord, may they be blessed with strength and guidance. *We pray to the Lord;*
- ❖ For those who are stuck in hard times, may they persevere and remember to trust in Your plan O God. *We pray to the Lord;*
- ❖ *For all nurses and doctors, O Lord, may they be protected from the Corona Virus. We pray to the Lord;*
- ❖ *For all the departed souls of our family and especially of Sr Thecla, may all their souls Rest In Peace. We pray to the Lord;*
- ❖ *Sr Thecla, though alone in the Care Home, always communicated with her family members and friends.. Following her example, we may always stay in touch and cherish one another. We pray to the Lord;*

**Read by Daniella Palha**



# Closing Prayer

Eternal rest, grant unto Sister Thecla O  
Lord

And let perpetual light shine upon her  
May her soul rest in peace (Repeat)

Eternal rest grant unto Sister Thecla O  
Lord

And let perpetual light shine upon her  
May her soul and the souls of all the  
faithful departed rest in peace

Amen





# Reflection



# Memories of Sr. Thecla

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4: 7, 8 .  
Sr Thecla's life was truly a celebration of service and worship..... I say this as she bore her long drawn out illnesses with patience and resilience..... It is certainly not easy for one to be blind (partial in one eye and complete in the other) and still be inviting and polite to all around. Everyone who met her felt she was a blessing and left her feeling spiritually and emotionally energized.... This was the aura she exuded but in a completely quiet and humble way.

I will always cherish the 'forever ' times we, spoke over the phone.... especially after my mum's death in Nov 2011 .... From being my aunt and mum's eldest sister, with formal interactions, now (post 2011) her persona acquired a more poignant overtone.... She was now my confidante , and my a sounding board ... I could relate all that happened in the week and she would just listen, offering guidance and counsel whenever, required.... Now as I write this.... I can feel a, resonance of the " Hello Shirlene, how are you ? " In the heart of hearts I knew that one day, I wouldn't hear these words anymore and that would be the final dawning of a void, a presence deeply cherished yet dearly missed....

**by Shirlene Palha Fernandes**

# Memories of Sr. Thecla

Sr was always so great at keeping in touch with the family, and even though she is not around anymore she is the reason we are connected through the group and on this call today.

I have fond memories of Sr from when I was a child of her picking us up from the bus port when we visited Mombasa to more recent ones when I visited her in the UK and I tried to help her clear up her room which she did not love.

What I remember about Sr was her passion for food, and over the last 20 years even though she was at Maryville she still managed to get her Goan food fix. Every time I visited her, she would have sorpotel or samosas in the fridge brought by her many friends.

One story always stuck to me and she reminded me about when I visited her of a time when she caught me stealing a plum at granny's place she walked in the room and asked me what I was hiding and I just ran and hugged her. She hugged me and smiled and that was our relationship. I always felt so much kindness and love from her. This carried on even after I moved to Australia, she always called me, and we would have long conversations.

I cherish my visits to the UK where I would spend so much time with her and we would never tire of talking. One night we talked till about 11pm and I told her not to worry about me getting home as I would just take an uber. Uber was a concept which she was not too familiar with and after I explained it to her she was even more nervous about me getting into an uber.

I will miss her, and our long chats and I know she will always be looking after us in heaven.

**by Murfie Dholakia**



# Closing Song - “*Go in Peace*”

## Verse 1:

There will be no more darkness. There  
is no more night, no more night.

There will be no more sadness, only joy  
and light, joy and light.

Lift your eyes beyond the hills and see  
the dawn.

There is beautiful mercy in the arms of  
the holy one.

## Chorus:

Go in peace, God be with you.

Go in peace, be at rest,  
With the saints and the angels.  
Now you are free. Go in peace.



# Closing Song - (cont...)



## **Verse 2:**

See the Father is waiting with a robe of  
white, purest white.

Go and feast at his table with the bread  
of life, bread of life.

Lift your heart, rejoice and sing for you  
are home;

home at last and forever in the arms of  
the holy one

## **Chorus:**

Go in peace, God be with you.

Go in peace, be at rest,  
With the saints and the angels.

Now you are free. Go in peace  
(repeat chorus) .