

**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
September 23, 2018

**Reading 1: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20**

The wicked say:  
Let us beset the just one, because he is obnoxious to us;  
he sets himself against our doings,  
reproaches us for transgressions of the law  
and charges us with violations of our training.  
Let us see whether his words be true;  
let us find out what will happen to him.  
For if the just one be the son of God, God will defend him  
and deliver him from the hand of his foes.  
With revilement and torture  
let us put the just one to the test  
that we may have proof of his gentleness  
and try his patience.  
Let us condemn him to a shameful death;  
for according to his own words, God will take care of him.

**Responsorial: Psalm 54**

*The Lord upholds my life.*

O God, by your name save me,  
and by your might defend my cause.  
O God, hear my prayer;  
hearken to the words of my mouth.

For the haughty men have risen up against me,  
the ruthless seek my life;  
they set not God before their eyes.

Behold, God is my helper;  
the Lord sustains my life.  
Freely will I offer you sacrifice;  
I will praise your name, O LORD, for its goodness.

**Gospel: Mark 9: 30-37**

Jesus and his disciples left from there  
and began a journey through Galilee,  
but he did not wish anyone to know about it.  
He was teaching his disciples and telling them,  
“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men  
and they will kill him,  
and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”  
But they did not understand the saying,  
and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house,  
he began to ask them,  
“What were you arguing about on the way?”  
But they remained silent.  
They had been discussing among themselves on the way  
who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,  
“If anyone wishes to be first,  
he shall be the last of all  
and the servant of all.”

Taking a child,  
he placed it in their midst,  
and putting his arms  
around it, he said to them,  
“Whoever receives one  
child such as this in my  
name, receives me;  
and whoever receives me,  
receives not me but the  
One who sent me.”



**Reading 2: James 3:16-4:3**

Beloved:  
Where jealousy and selfish ambition exist,  
there is disorder and every foul practice.  
But the wisdom from above is first of all pure,  
then peaceable, gentle, compliant,  
full of mercy and good fruits,  
without inconstancy or insincerity.  
And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace  
for those who cultivate peace.

Where do the wars  
and where do the conflicts among you come from?  
Is it not from your passions  
that make war within your members?  
You covet but do not possess.  
You kill and envy but you cannot obtain;  
you fight and wage war.  
You do not possess because you do not ask.  
You ask but do not receive,  
because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

**Words from our Holy Father**

“Whoever receives one such child in my name  
receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me  
but him who sent me.” With these words, the Evangelists  
remind the Christian community of Jesus’ teaching, which  
both inspires and challenges. This phrase traces the sure  
path which leads to God; it begins with the smallest and,  
through the grace of our Savior, it grows into the practice  
of welcoming others. To be welcoming is a necessary  
condition for making this journey a concrete reality: God  
made himself one of us. In Jesus God became a child, and  
the openness of faith to God, which nourishes hope, is  
expressed in loving proximity to the smallest and the  
weakest. Charity, faith and hope are all actively present in  
the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

-Pope Francis  
World Day Of Migrants And Refugees  
2017

**The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
September 16, 2018

**Here I Am To Worship**

Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness.  
Opened my eyes let me see.  
Beauty that made this heart adore you  
hope of a life spent with you.

*And here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,  
Here I am to say that you're my God,  
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.*

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted  
Glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly you came to the earth you created.  
All for love's sake became poor.

**Psalm 54**

*The Lord upholds my life.*

**The Servant Song**

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road  
We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ light for you  
in the night time of your fear.  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

**Prayer in Time of Abuse and Scandal**

I have to admit, God,  
that sometimes it's hard  
to even call your name.

In times like this  
I can't help but think  
that if you had been there,  
we wouldn't be here—

—here in a world where  
so much violence and abuse  
have changed everything

—here where such tragedy and scandal  
fill today's news  
even as many more suffer  
each day, unnoticed and alone.

But here is where we need you,  
and here is where we cry to you.  
Be here with us, Lord, be here.

Let us be angry for what has been done,  
but don't let us be consumed by it  
that we no longer recognize ourselves  
as your own.

Give peace to the children.  
Unbind them from the bonds of grief and fear  
that they may become again  
children of joy, of love, of trust, and hope.

And not today, Lord, but in time,  
if there's at all any room in our hearts to forgive,  
then so let it be,  
for we all need to be created again.

Be here with us, Lord, be here,  
right where we are, as broken as we are.  
Be here with us, Lord, be here. Amen.

**Questions for Reflection**

1. What word or phrase from the Gospel resonated with you?
2. What does the disciples' self-centeredness and lack of empathy teach us about the importance of listening to the person who is speaking?
3. What is the most important lesson you have learned from a child? What have children taught you about the Gospel values of service, charity, compassion, and justice?
4. "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." What is Jesus telling us about leadership? Do you know of individuals whose humility has led them to accomplish great things for others?
5. The First Reading speaks of "just ones". Who are the ones in our world today who enduring persecution by "the wicked"?
6. How does the Responsorial Psalm add to the meaning of this weekend's readings?
7. Ambition for power and greatness: where does it lead? What does it do to a country? To a business? To a Church? Is there a way to cultivate peace?
8. Read Pope Francis' words on the reverse of this page. He says that when we receive one migrant or refugee child, it teaches us to welcome others. What does giving a welcome have to do with faith, hope and love? Why do you think Jesus came as a child, small and weak?

**Petitions**

Our response: "Son of Man, hear our prayer."

**Closing Prayer**

O God, protector of the poor and defender of the just, in your kingdom the last become first, the gentle are strong, and the lowly exalted. Give us wisdom from above, that we may find in your servant Jesus the pattern of true discipleship and the grace to persevere in following him, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

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