

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Cycle C

Oct. 30, 2022

Dear Children of Our Lady of Lourdes, welcome back to our Children's Liturgy Program. Our program this Sunday, October 30th is the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time. Remember that Ordinary Time does not mean that it is ordinary but rather that it is counted or numbered. The word "ordinal" means numbered, one, two, three... etc. It does not include the "Solemnities", the named Sundays such as Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and a few more. The period from Lent through the Easter Sundays and Advent through the Christmas season include the Solemnities. Ordinary Time (counted time) includes those Sundays that fall after the Christmas season until Ash Wednesday or after Pentecost and runs until the First Sunday of Advent. The last Sunday in Ordinary Time is the 34th Sunday.

Our first reading today is from the **Book of Wisdom (11:22 - 12:1)**. The writing of this reading takes place sometime during the 1st century before Christ (BC). Jesus was not yet known. People believed in God but saw him with Greek and Jewish eyes. They believed that he was both all-knowing and all-powerful and that he had both compassion and mercy for people, overlooking their sins so that they would look to God and repent.

**Our Lord, compared with you,
the World is a speck of dust too light for the scales.
And it quickly disappears like drops of morning dew.**

**You show mercy to everyone,
And your power is absolute,
You overlook our sins
So that we will turn to you.**

**You created everything
and you love it all.
You would never make anything that you did not like.**

**Nothing would have lasted
Unless you had wanted it to.
Only what you commanded to last could have endured.**

Master, you love all who live,

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**and you have pity on all of us,
because everything is yours.
Your eternal Spirit is in everything.**

The word of the Lord

This reading describes the World as a tiny speck of dust or a drop of early morning dew when compared to God who created it. We must look to him for everything since his power is absolute. Because we are his creation he loves us and has pity on us when we falter. This becomes an important theme in the next two readings.

This week's **Responsorial Psalm (145: 1-2, 8-9, 13cd.)** is next. Let us see how it relates to the first reading.

R/: I will praise your name forever, my King and my God.

**I will praise you,
my God and King
and always honor your name.
I will praise you each day
and always honor your name**

R/: I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.

**You are merciful, Lord!
You are kind and patient
and always loving.
You are good to everyone,
and you take care
of all your creation.**

R/: I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.

**Our Lord, you keep your word
and do everything you say.
When someone stumbles or falls
You give a helping hand**

R/: I will praise your name for ever, my King and my God.

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The Responsorial Psalm expresses the feelings of the first reading . It also encourages us to praise God at all times every day to show how much we acknowledge our love for God. The writer also defined God as the King who is merciful, kind, patient, loving, and keeps his word. Because God is all-knowing we must rely on him and accept that he will be there to help us when we stumble or fall.

The second reading is from the **2nd letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians (1:11-12)**. These were Greek people who lived in the city of Thessalonica, an early center of Christianity in Greece.

Brothers and Sisters:

**God chose you,
and we keep praying that God will make you
worthy of being his people.**

**We pray for God's power to help you do
all the good things that you hope to do
and that your faith makes you want to do.**

**Then, because God and our Lord Jesus Christ are so kind,
you will bring honor to the name of our Lord Jesus,
and he will bring honor to you.**

The word of the Lord.

This reading should remind us that people were chosen by God and God would help them do the good things they hoped to do. And if they had faith in God they would be able to bring honor to Christ, and in return he would bring honor to them. It was true in Christ's time and is true today for us.

The final reading is from the Holy Gospel of Luke (**19:1-10**).

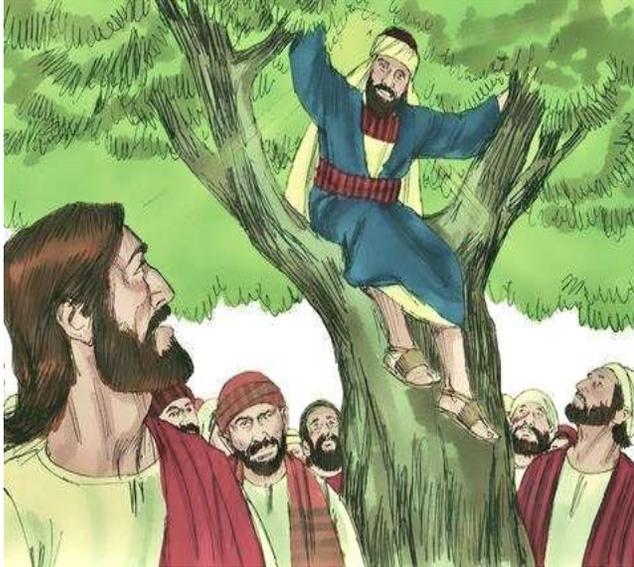
A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

**Jesus was going through Jericho,
where a man named Zacchaeus lived.
He was in charge of collecting taxes and was very rich**

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**Jesus was heading his way,
and Zacchaeus wanted to see
what he was like.**

**But Zacchaeus was a short man and
could not see over the crowd.
So he ran ahead and climbed up into a
sycamore tree.**

**When Jesus got there, he looked up
and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down! I
want to stay with you today."**

**Zacchaeus hurried down and gladly
welcomed Jesus.**

**Everyone who saw this started grumbling,
"This man Zacchaeus is a sinner!
And Jesus is going home to eat with him."**

**Later that day Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord,
"I will give half of my property to the poor.
And I will now pay back four times as much
to everyone I have cheated."**

**Jesus said to Zacchaeus,
"Today you and your family have been saved,
because you are a true son of Abraham.
The Son of Man came to look for and to save
people who are lost."**

The gospel of the Lord.

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This story is about Zacchaeus, a very short and nondescript man who was the Chief Tax Collector and had used his profession/job to become rich.

How do you think he became wealthy? He cheated people on their taxes and took more than people owed.

This is not the only reason he was hated by his fellow Jews. **Why do you think Zacchaeus was hated by his fellow Hebrews?** This region of Thessalonica was also under the control of the Romans who mistreated the Jewish people. The people blamed Zacchaeus for working with the Romans helping them with their cruelty and earning money for it.

When Zacchaeus realizes that Jesus is coming through his village, he wants to see him and become a part of this moment. He was not alone in his thoughts. Many people wanted to connect with Jesus and the crowd was big. Zacchaeus was very short and could not see above the crowd. He rushed to climb a large Sycamore tree and makes a fool of himself. Many of the crowd began to make fun of the little man. In spite of this Jesus invites himself to Zacchaeus' house. The people were upset because they considered him a sinner and not worthy of Jesus' company.

Why does Jesus decide to go with Zacchaeus to his House? It looks like Zacchaeus is ready to do the right thing as he promises to return the money he stole and to give more back than he took. Jesus forgives him because he is not only sorry for what he had done, he is also ready to humble himself.

When we do something wrong or hurt someone's feelings, how can we correct the harm we have done? Is saying "I'm sorry" enough? And if you hurt someone, say you are sorry, but do it again, what do you think will happen to your relationship with that person? What else could you do in addition to saying you are sorry?

- a. promise not to do it again
- b. change your ways and show how you should behave
- c. how might prayer help?

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time, 2022
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