

[141] **TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME B**

FIRST READING

Let us approach the throne of grace with confidence.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

4:14-16

Brothers and sisters:

We have a great high priest,
who has gone into heaven,
and he is Jesus the Son of God.

That is why we must hold on to what we have said about him.

Jesus understands every weakness of ours,
because he was tempted in every way that we are.
But he did not sin!

So whenever we are in need,
we should come bravely before the throne of our merciful God.
There we will be treated with undeserved kindness,
and we will find help.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

96:1 and 3, 4-5, 9-10abef

R. (22) Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

The Lord is truthful;
he can be trusted.
He loves justice and fairness,
and he is kind to everyone
everywhere on earth.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

We depend on you, Lord,
to help and protect us.
Be kind and bless us!
We depend on you.

R. Lord, let your mercy be on us, as we place our trust in you.

ALLELUIA

Mark 10:45

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Son of Man came to serve
and to give his life as a ransom for all.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The Son of Man came to give his life as a ransom for all.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
came up to Jesus and asked,
“Teacher, will you do us a favor?”

Jesus asked them what they wanted, and they answered,
“When you come into your glory,
please let one of us sit at your right side
and the other at your left.”

Jesus told them, “You don’t really know what you’re asking!
Are you able to drink from the cup that I must soon drink from
or be baptized as I must be baptized?”

“Yes, we are!” James and John answered.

Then Jesus replied,
“You certainly will drink from the cup from which I must drink.
And you will be baptized just as I must!
But it is not for me to say
who will sit at my right side and at my left.
That is for God to decide.”

When the ten other disciples heard this,
they were angry with James and John.
But Jesus called the disciples together and said:

“You know that those foreigners who call themselves kings
like to order their people around.
And their great leaders have full power over the people they rule.
But don’t act like them.
If you want to be great,

you must be the servant of all the others.
And if you want to be first,
you must be everyone's slave.
The Son of Man did not come to be a slave master,
but a slave who will give his life to rescue many people."

The gospel of the Lord.

Twenty-ninth Sunday of Ordinary Time — Cycle B

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we want to follow you each day. We know we need your help to be true and loyal friends, please help us walk in your footsteps each day. AMEN

Readings: Is 53:10-11; Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22; Hebrews 4:14-16; Mark 10:35-45

Reflection: This is World Mission Sunday. There are people around the world who need our help. They need us to pay attention to their needs and not just be concerned about our own wishes and needs. This is the point of the Gospel story: James and John are worried for themselves. The other disciples didn't feel it was right that Jesus promised James and John something they thought they couldn't have. They were only concerned with 'being important,' they weren't acting like Jesus would want. James and John would have to endure all that Jesus would — drinking the cup — being open to give his life blood as a sign of love and forgiveness; being baptized into eternal life in God.

Jesus clearly says: "You don't know what you are asking." But James and John willingly commit themselves.

In reality: We all are called to sit at Jesus' right and left side. We, too, are called to commit to giving our life and to be willing to die for love of God like Jesus did. Do we understand what that means? Probably not. We have to grow into its full meaning. When we act like Jesus, then we can sit there in humility because we know what it means — we are to serve.

James and John had a WISH and Jesus says: If you act and become like me, then, YES.. What if we each had a WISH and Jesus fulfilled it. What would you WISH for? Well, on this World Mission Sunday: What would we WISH for all people of this world? Even for the 'world.' There are many needs and we are called to be Jesus' response as best we can. You have heard of "Make a Wish Foundation." They grant wishes for children with terminal illnesses or significant challenges in life. And you have heard of "Jerry's Kids." On Mission Sunday, and every day we are called to be "Jesus' Kids" and serve one another with love, mercy and kindness. How often do we put the needs of others before our own? That is a practical way we learn to be 'missionaries.'

If you have access to the Maryknoll magazine or some other visual to show the children what missionaries and mission work is about. There are many missionary communities and service groups both with church affiliations and with governments.

Activities: Perhaps you can have magazines and the children can cut or tear pictures out that show how people need others to make their WISH for a better life come true. Or you could make a scroll and list the needs of others — to be taken back into church and placed by the altar—or somewhere acceptable to show what the children wish for the world. The Glenmary Community serves in rural, often poverty 'rich' communities. Perhaps you could write a letter to a 'mission' parish or diocese just to let them know you are praying for them. Or perhaps a parish in New Orleans or along the coast.

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To Conclude the Session:

Remind the children that Jesus said: Serve. The first will be last, Jesus says. This week, let's promise to let others go first. Let's promise to help someone in need. Let's truly do something for another without wanting something in return. Make a wishing well, or scroll, and write on it a WISH for the week, i.e., the suggestions mentioned or something like: I wish to share my favorite toy with my brother/sister. I WISH to pray for poor children. If your group is large, you select an action/concern for them. This would help in having time to share.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, we find it hard to go to the back of the line; to let others be first. Help us to remember, as children of God, we should be willing to let others go before us. Help us, Jesus, to act like you act. AMEN.