

[118] **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C**

**FIRST READING**

The Lord disciplines those he loves.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

12:5a, 6-7, 11

**B**rothers and sisters:

You have forgotten that the Scriptures say to God's children,

“When the Lord punishes you, don't make light of it.  
The Lord corrects the people he loves  
and disciplines those he calls his own.”

Be patient when you are being corrected!  
This is how the Lord treats his children.  
Don't all parents correct their children?

It is never fun to be corrected.  
In fact, at the time it is always painful.  
But if we learn to obey by being corrected,  
we will do right and live at peace.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

119:165, 168, 171

*R. (165a) O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.*

Lord, you give peace of mind  
to all who love your Law.  
Nothing can make them fall.

*R. O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.*

You know everything I do.  
You know I respect every law  
you have given.

*R. O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.*

If you will teach me your laws,  
I will praise you.

*R. O Lord, great peace have they who love your law.*

## ALLELUIA

John 14:6

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

I am the way, the truth, and the life, says the Lord;  
no one comes to the Father, except through me.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

They will come from east and west to take their places  
at the feast in the kingdom of God.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

13:22-30

**A**s Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem,  
he taught the people in the towns and villages.  
Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

Jesus answered:

"Do all you can to go in by the narrow door!

A lot of people will try to get in,  
but will not be able to.

Once the owner of the house gets up and locks the door,  
you will be left standing outside.

You will knock on the door and say,  
'Sir, open the door for us!'

"But the owner will answer,  
'I don't know a thing about you!'

"Then you will start saying,  
'We dined with you, and you taught in our streets.'

"But he will say,

'I really don't know who you are!  
Get away from me, all you evil people!'

"Then when you have been thrown outside,  
you will weep and grit your teeth  
because you will see Abraham and Isaac  
and all the prophets in God's kingdom.

People will come from all directions  
and sit down to feast in God's kingdom.

There the ones who are now least important will be the most important,  
and those who are now most important will be least important."

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The gospel of the Lord.



## Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle C

### Prayer:

Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for loving us enough to give us rules that will help us live happy and healthy lives.  
Please help us to do our best to follow your rules.  
In your name we pray.  
Amen

### Readings:

Hebrews 12:5a, 6-7, 11  
Psalm 119:165,168,171  
Luke 13: 22-30

### Reflection:

Following the rules never seems to be very fun. We always want to do what we are told we can't. It can be hard to understand why God and others who say they love us and want us to be happy make rules that keep us from doing or having things that we want. Today's readings are about the importance of following the rules and how happy we will be if we do. Jesus talks about entering through a narrow door. He means that it will not be easy to follow the rules but if we do, we will get through that narrow door and get into His house/heaven where there will be an awesome party.

Why do you think following the rules is so important? Rules help us to live together safely. They help us lead happy lives. What would happen if your parents let you stay up every night as late as you wanted? You would be too sleepy in school to learn, if you went to school. If you don't learn, you will have a harder time getting a job and taking care of yourself and your family. How happy would that make you? What would happen if you could ignore every stop sign while driving? There would be car crashes and you could be hurt. How happy would you be if you were hurt? What if you were allowed to eat all the ice cream and candy you wanted? Eventually you would get sick. That would not be very fun, either. God really does want us to be happy which is why we have been given rules to help us live good lives.

### Discussion:

- What are some rules that you hate?
- How do they help make your life happier or better?

### Activity: Follow the Rules

Materials: Dum-Dum lollipops, coloring sheets and/or paper, coloring supplies

#### Activity:

1. Instruct the class to color pictures of themselves following the rules or write a prayer thanking God for rules and decorate it. Tell them they are not allowed to talk, laugh, touch or interact with anyone else in the class. This is going to be quiet time.
2. Keep a list of the children who do not follow the rules.
3. At the end of class, hand out the lollipops to those who did follow the rules. Remind them to wait until after Church is over, to eat it.

