

[124] **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME C**

**FIRST READING**

Who can comprehend the will of God?

A reading from the book of Wisdom

9:16c-18

**N**o one really knows what is in the heavens.

And, Lord, we cannot know what you have planned,  
unless you send down Wisdom and your Holy Spirit.

Wisdom makes straight paths for those who live on earth.

She teaches us what pleases you,  
and by Wisdom we are saved.

The word of the Lord.

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

90:12-13, 14abc and 17

*R. (1 ) In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.*

Our Lord, teach us to use wisely  
all the time we have.  
Help us, Lord! Don't wait!  
Pity your servants.

*R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.*

When morning comes,  
let your love satisfy  
all our needs.  
Our Lord and our God,  
treat us with kindness  
and let all go well for us.  
Please let all go well!

*R. In every age, O Lord, you have been our refuge.*

## ALLELUIA

Psalm 119:135

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

Let your face shine on your servant,  
and teach me your laws.

*R. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## GOSPEL

Unless you are ready to give up all that you possess,  
you cannot be my disciple.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

14:25-27

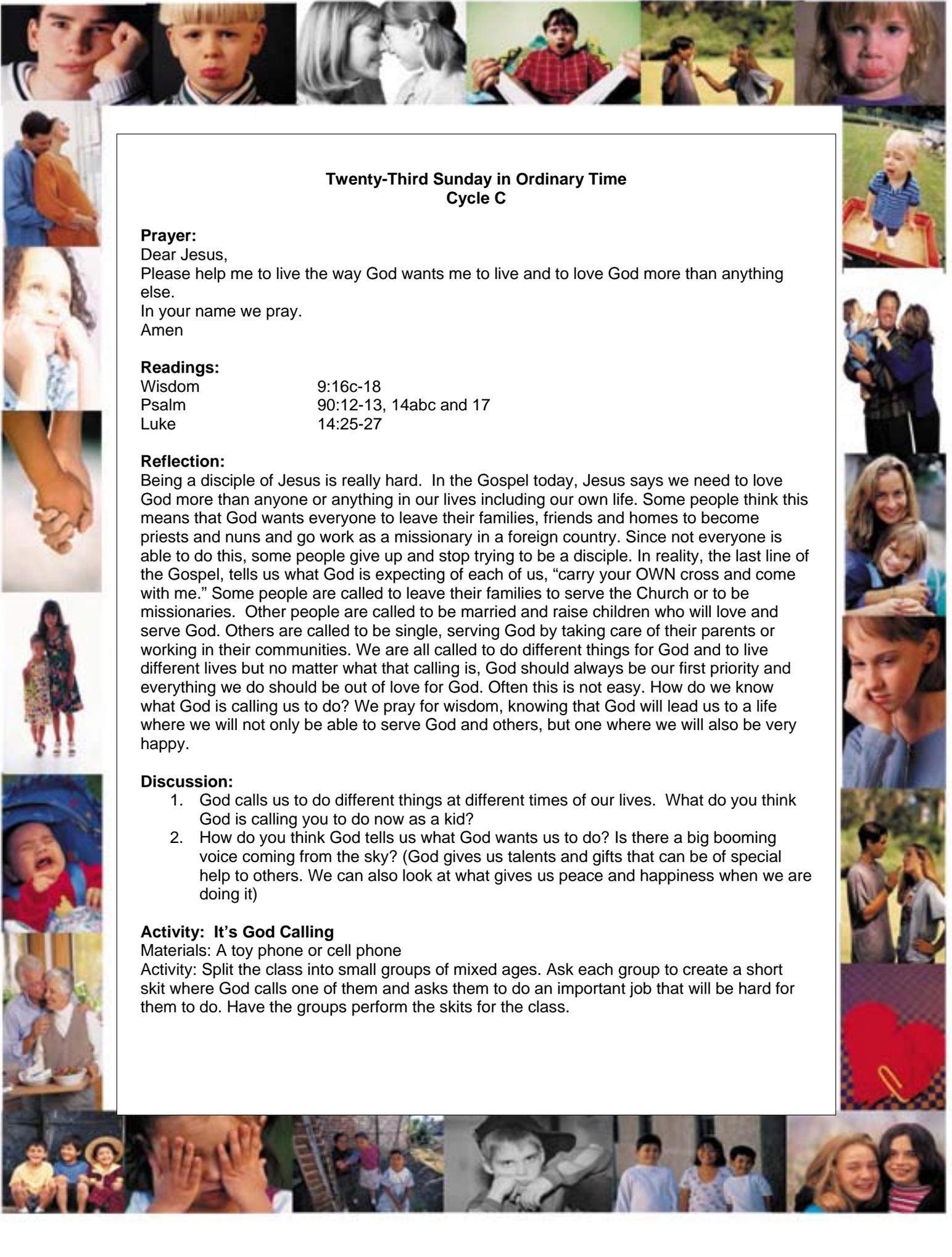
**L**arge crowds were walking along with Jesus,  
when he turned and said:

“You cannot be my disciple  
unless you love me more than you love your father and mother,  
your wife and children, and your brothers and sisters.

You cannot come with me  
unless you love me more than you love your own life.

“You cannot be my disciple  
unless you carry your own cross and come with me.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle C**

**Prayer:**

Dear Jesus,  
Please help me to live the way God wants me to live and to love God more than anything else.

In your name we pray.

Amen

**Readings:**

Wisdom 9:16c-18

Psalm 90:12-13, 14abc and 17

Luke 14:25-27

**Reflection:**

Being a disciple of Jesus is really hard. In the Gospel today, Jesus says we need to love God more than anyone or anything in our lives including our own life. Some people think this means that God wants everyone to leave their families, friends and homes to become priests and nuns and go work as a missionary in a foreign country. Since not everyone is able to do this, some people give up and stop trying to be a disciple. In reality, the last line of the Gospel, tells us what God is expecting of each of us, "carry your OWN cross and come with me." Some people are called to leave their families to serve the Church or to be missionaries. Other people are called to be married and raise children who will love and serve God. Others are called to be single, serving God by taking care of their parents or working in their communities. We are all called to do different things for God and to live different lives but no matter what that calling is, God should always be our first priority and everything we do should be out of love for God. Often this is not easy. How do we know what God is calling us to do? We pray for wisdom, knowing that God will lead us to a life where we will not only be able to serve God and others, but one where we will also be very happy.

**Discussion:**

1. God calls us to do different things at different times of our lives. What do you think God is calling you to do now as a kid?
2. How do you think God tells us what God wants us to do? Is there a big booming voice coming from the sky? (God gives us talents and gifts that can be of special help to others. We can also look at what gives us peace and happiness when we are doing it)

**Activity: It's God Calling**

Materials: A toy phone or cell phone

Activity: Split the class into small groups of mixed ages. Ask each group to create a short skit where God calls one of them and asks them to do an important job that will be hard for them to do. Have the groups perform the skits for the class.