

[95] **FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME** **A**

FIRST READING

See how humbly you king comes to you!

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this:

Everyone in Jerusalem, celebrate and rejoice.
Your king has won the victory,
and he is coming to you.
He is humble and rides on a donkey.
He comes on the colt of a donkey.

I, the Lord, will take away all war chariots and horses
from Israel and Jerusalem.
Bows that were made for battle will be destroyed.

I will bring peace to nations,
and your king will rule from sea to sea.
His kingdom will reach from the Euphrates River
across all the earth.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

89:1-2, 15-16

R. (see 1) 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 forever, 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 forever, 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 forever, my king and my God.

SECOND READING

God's Spirit now lives in you.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

8:9, 11

Brothers and sisters:

You are no longer ruled by your desires,
but by God's Spirit, who lives in you.
People who don't have the Spirit of Christ in them
don't belong to him.

God raised Jesus to life!
God's Spirit now lives in you,
and he will raise you to life by his Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

See Matthew 11:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth;
you have revealed to little ones the mysteries of the kingdom.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

I am gentle and humble of heart.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

11:25-30

On one occasion Jesus said:

“My Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
I am glad that you hid all this from wise and educated people
and showed it to ordinary people.
Yes, Father, that is what pleased you.”

“My Father has given me everything,
and he is the only one who knows the Son.
The only one who truly knows the Father is the Son.
But the Son wants to tell others about the Father,
so that they can know him too.

“If you are tired from carrying heavy burdens,
come to me and I will give you rest.
Take the yoke I give you.
Put it on your shoulders and learn from me.
I am gentle and humble,
and you will find rest.
This yoke is easy to bear,
and this burden is light.”

The gospel of the Lord.

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Opening Prayer:

I will praise You, my God and my King. Today is the first Sunday in July, the month traditionally dedicated to Your Son's Precious Blood. Thank You, Father, for giving us Your Son to save us by pouring out His Most Precious Blood, and by giving us eternal hope in His Resurrection. Help us to grow in the knowledge of You and Your Son; and help us praise you, Father by following Your Son more closely.

In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Readings:

Zechariah 9: 9-10

Psalm 145: 1-2, 8-9, 13-14

Matthew 11:25-30

Reflection:

Do we think of Jesus as God's perfect gift to us? And as our perfect gift to God?

God's perfect gift: The first reading reminds us that Jesus came humbly – riding on a donkey – the sign of the poor. Yet Jesus came powerfully – destroying all weapons of violence by replacing them with peace. When we look at the violence in our world today, we realize how much we need the Peace Jesus offers.

The Gospel reveals that Jesus came to tell us about God our Father. Only Jesus can do this because only Jesus knows the Father. The Father wants Jesus to tell us about the Father and how much the Father loves us. And he wants us to tell others about this Father and His love for everyone.

The Gospel also tells us Jesus came with mercy and compassion, healing the pain of tiredness, weariness, disappointment and frustration. When life is hard, Jesus wants to help us. Jesus says, "Come to me."

Most of all Jesus came to reconcile us to the Father and to save us. Jesus is our perfect gift to the Father. He poured out all of His Blood in His sufferings and His death on the cross. Only Jesus could completely atone for our sins.

Am I happy to learn about God as Father, and how to follow His Son, Jesus? Am I eager to read THE Gospels and to take time out to think, to listen, and to talk to the Father and to Jesus?

Thank you, Father and Son, for giving us a way to know more about You. Thank You for the Gospels.

I WILL PRAISE YOU MY GOD AND MY KING!

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Discussion:

Why did Jesus come?

1. To tell us about the Father
2. To bring Peace to the World
3. To help us when we are tired and weary – and when hard things happen in our lives.
4. To show us how to live and to offer Himself for us by pouring out His Blood on the Cross for our sins.

How did Jesus come?

1. Poor – the first reading said Jesus came poor riding on a donkey – the sign of the poor. How do I look on poor people? What can I do to help others who are poor?
2. Jesus came bringing Peace. What can I do today to have peace in my own family? In my own heart? What keeps me from having inner Peace?
3. Jesus came bringing Mercy and Compassion. What can I do today to show others compassion?

Activity: Make a Memory Verse Chain

Materials needed: Pastel colored 8 ½" x 11" paper
Scissors
Glue or tape
Markers, pens, crayons, etc.

Directions:

1. Help the children to memorize the verse: "I will praise You, My God and My King."
2. (This step may be done in advance) Give each child a piece of paper. Ask them to fold the paper in half, width-wise, 4 times so there are six "strips" on the page. Then ask them to fold the paper in half, length – wise, creating 12 strips. Ask the children to cut out the 12 strips. They may trade strips with others to have multiple colors, if they wish.
3. Instruct the children to write to phrase "I will praise You, My God and My King! Love _____(insert the child's name). I WORD PER STRIP. IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STRIP.
4. Glue the strips into circles, forming a chain.
5. Instruct the children to put the chain where they will see it often throughout the next week and praise their King and their God, every time they see it.