

## TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### October 17, 2021 B

**Facilitator:** *Let us take a minute to consciously acknowledge that we are in the presence of God and ask Him to help us to hear the Word He wants us to hear this week.*

**Pause for a moment and then play a religious song.**

**Opening prayer:** *Loving God, you ask us to believe that in accepting the Cross, we will come closer to you. Help us to understand the mystery of the Cross through the example of Jesus. Speak your word to our hearts as we reflect and pray together during this time. We ask this through Jesus who obediently took up his Cross for our redemption. Amen.*

**Response to last week's Word:** (Facilitator briefly recalls last week's Gospel.) *Let us spend a few minutes sharing how the Word we heard God speak to us last week has unfolded in our lives during the week.*

**Facilitator reads focus statement:** The first reading speaks of a mysterious suffering servant. In the Gospel, Jesus presents us with a *seventh lesson* on discipleship, namely, servant leadership. The second reading is a beautiful statement about the humanity of Christ, which should give us confidence when we approach him.

*Let us listen to God's Word to hear what it is He wants to say to us in these readings today. As you hear a word, you may want to write it down to remember. Here is the link to the readings:*

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/101721.cfm>

Read the First Reading, the Psalm, and the Second Reading, pausing briefly after each one.

#### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 53:10-11**

The opening words: *"The Lord was pleased to crush him in infirmity"* could leave us with a pretty cruel and nasty image of God. We need to remember that what pleased God was *not* the suffering of the servant but rather the servant's willingness to carry out his mission—even if it meant suffering and pain. God was pleased to use the servant's suffering and sacrifice to bring good to many people, just as God used the suffering and death of people like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., to bring justice and liberation to many people. Or just as God used the sacrifices of Mother Teresa to bring dignity to many who had lost their dignity. It was by meditating on passages like this that the early Christians came to understand why Jesus had to suffer in order to save us.

#### **RESPONSORIAL PSALM 33**

This psalm might well have been on the lips of the suffering servant or Jesus himself during his passion. It is a prayer of trust from one who has pondered deeply God's love and the promise to save God's faithful ones. The assertion that the Lord will "deliver their soul from death" takes on new meaning in the context of these readings, which speak so graphically of the paschal mystery through which God offers deliverance.

#### **SECOND READING: Hebrews 4:14-16**

This reading contains a double exhortation to hold fast to faith and to approach the throne of grace with confidence. Jesus' exalted state has not distanced him from us. On the contrary, he knows our limitations. As a man, he shared them with us. As an authentic human being, he carries with him all of the members of the human race and their needs to the heavenly throne of God. The second exhortation pertains to our relationship with Jesus and how that should give us great confidence to approach God's throne boldly.

#### **PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL:**

*As we listen to this first reading of the Gospel, let us listen with our minds for the content.*

**A participant reads the Gospel,  
then all pause to reflect.**

*As we listen to this second reading of the Gospel, let us listen with our hearts to what Jesus is saying to us. Be aware of what draws us in and what part of the Gospel might be a challenge to embrace. You may want to write down the word you hear.*

### **GOSPEL: Mark 10:35-45**

This Gospel is filled with misunderstandings, paradoxes and reversals. James and John seek places of prominence in Jesus' kingdom. They represent that part of us that desires to wield power and authority over others. Jesus offers a reversal of the common perception of power and authority: *"Any one among you who aspires to greatness must serve the rest."* The Gospel shows how little the Apostles have come in their understanding of the nature of true discipleship. When they assert that they can drink from his cup and share in his baptism, they have no idea of the implications of their answer. The 'cup' and 'baptism' are references, of course, to Jesus' suffering on the Cross. For the disciple, this baptism will in time involve the same daily dying of humble and selfless service—the lesson of discipleship being taught in today's Gospel. In the Kingdom that Jesus is inaugurating, true greatness will involve a willingness to be humble servants of others.

### **FAITH-SHARING QUESTIONS**

1. Share with the group or person next to you what spoke to you most in the Gospel. With this first questions, try to refrain from commenting on what others said. Just share what spoke to you and then move on to the next person.
2. Do some of the stories or verses that you read in the Bible cause you to wonder if God is the loving person we say God is? (See the words in today's Sunday reading.) How do you deal with verses that portray God as cruel and punishing?
3. Do you find it easy or hard to believe that Jesus "was tested in every way" that we are? How hard is it for you to believe that Jesus was *fully* human? What does this mean to you? What implications might a deep belief in the humanity of Christ have on our prayer life?
4. The world pushes us to climb the ladder of success and to be powerful. Christ tells us to be humble servants. The world tells us that "great" people are those with prominent positions. Jesus tells us that great people are those who humbly serve others. How do you reconcile these opposites in your heart?
5. What helps us to develop a humble servant-like spirit that Jesus speaks about, a spirit that is so obvious in the life of Pope Francis and was present in the life of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta?
6. Name one thing today's Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed/act on,

**JOURNALING:** *Having listened to God's word and listened to others reflections on it, take a quiet moment to reflect on what you are hearing God say to you. Your response will be what you bring to Eucharist on Sunday, asking Jesus to help you respond as He asks of you. When ready, jot down your reflections.*

### **PRAYING WITH THE WORD**

*Let us now pause to see how something(s) said in the reading might lead us into shared prayer. Suggestion: Lord, I ask for things from you constantly, help me to ask rightly—OR—Dear Jesus, teach me to serve like you.*

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

*Share with the person next to you one way you can act on this week's readings. Suggestions: Try to relate with a humble servant's heart to members of your family and community. Serve the needs of someone who is hurting. Pray for people crushed by infirmity or other forces in our world.*

### **CONCLUDE WITH PRAYERS OF PETITION, THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION**

*What are we grateful for? For what and for whom do we need to pray? Suggestion: Pray for all in authority, that they will be servant leaders like Jesus.*

### **CLOSING PRAYER (TOGETHER)**

#### **Prayer of Surrender**

Lord Jesus, I give you my hands to do your work.

I give you my feet to go your way.

I give you my eyes to see as you see.

I give you my tongue to speak your words.

I give you my mind that you may think in me.

I give you my spirit that you may pray in me.

Above all, I give you my heart that you may love in me—love the Father and all humanity.

I give you my whole self that you may grow in me, so that you, Lord, may be the one who lives, and works, and prays in me.

Amen.

From *Treasury of Prayers* by  
Father Eamon Tobin

**COME BACK TOGETHER!**

**SATURDAY OCT. 30, 2021 8:30 AM-NOON**

Ascension Parish  
2950 N. Harbor City Blvd Melbourne  
**A SCC Morning of Reflection: "Mind Your Manners!"**

**Chewing on Luke 14: 1, 7-11**

With Father Ben Berinti, C.P.P.S, Pastor,  
Immaculate Conception Church



Luke's Gospel presents Jesus as if he were a founding member of the "Diners' Club"! Meals play a central role in the ministry of Jesus as narrated by the Evangelist Luke. As Luke tells it, Jesus wasn't known for his "table manners," at least not according to the religious standards of his day. These mealtime scenes usually ended in drama, provocation, or scandal. Our SCC Morning of Reflection, guided by the Evangelist Luke, will help us explore our own "table manners" when it comes to eating and drinking with the Lord.

\$5.00 cost includes breakfast.

**RSVP:** Charlotte 321-345-9299/ [sccspacecoast@gmail.com](mailto:sccspacecoast@gmail.com)

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!!**