

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

Gospel

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it.

He was teaching his disciples and telling them,

“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”

But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house,

he began to ask them,

“What were you arguing about on the way?”

But they remained silent.

They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them,

“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.”



Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them,

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.”

Readings for the week:

25th Sunday in Ord. Time

Wis 2:12, 17-20
Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8
Jas 3:16-4:3
Mark 9:30-37

Monday

Ezra 1:1-6
Ps 126:1b-2ab,
2cd-3, 4-5, 6
Luke 8:16-18

Tuesday

**St. Matthew,
Apostle and
Evangelist**
Eph 4:1-7, 11-13
Ps 19:2-3, 4-5
Matt 9:9-13

Wednesday

Ezra 9:5-9
Tob 13:2, 3-4a,
4b-fg, 7-8
Luke 9:1-6

Thursday

Hag 1:1-8
Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4,
5-6a and 9b
Luke 9:7-9

Friday

Hag 2:1-9
Ps 43:1, 2, 3, 4
Luke 9:18-22

Saturday

Zech 2:5-9, 14-15a
Jer 31:10, 11-
12ab, 13
Luke 9:43b-45

26th Sunday in Ord. Time

Num 11:25-29
Ps 19:8, 10,
12-13, 14
Jas 5:1-6
Mark 9:38-43,
45, 47-48



Opening Prayer

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Reflecting on Living the Gospel

When Jesus tells his disciples (again) that he will be handed over to be put to death, and in three days will rise again, it is as though they have been deaf to everything that Jesus has said about his vulnerability and powerlessness. So Jesus sits down and calls the Twelve to himself. They need to be shocked out of their competitiveness and power-seeking, not by reprimand but by reversal, by action that will proclaim that, in the reign of God, to be first is to be last of all and servant of all. Gloomy silence gives way to astonishment when Jesus does what would be almost inconceivable in first-century Palestinian culture, where children, along with women and slaves, had almost no social status. In front of his twelve adult male disciples, Jesus wraps his arms around a disregarded child. Only one other time in the New Testament is such an intimate gesture mentioned—in the father's welcoming embrace of the returning Prodigal Son (Luke 15:20). Here "inside the house," a symbol of the domestic church, is a parable in action which teaches that what should characterize the ecclesial household is inclusion and equality, not exclusion and superiority.

In Jesus's day to extend hospitality to such little ones would be considered ridiculous because, although hospitality was such a significant Middle Eastern virtue, so was the return of hospitality. What could a child offer in return? But Jesus is teaching his disciples that these are the very "little ones" who are to be welcomed down through the ages: the ones who have no social status, no vote value, those whose human dignity is ignored or violated. To welcome them is to forge a link in the chain of what binds together those who offer such hospitality with Jesus and his Father.

Closing Prayer

Immanent God, your son, our teacher and friend, washed his disciples' feet, to give example that all who profess his name should be *the last of all and the servant of all*. Give us this same spirit of charity and service, that your holy reign may be made manifest by our sharing your love. **Amen.**

For Reflection:

• In the gospel the disciples argue about who is the "greatest." At times a comparative attitude (rather than a contributive one) can hamper our efforts to build the kingdom of God. When has this been true in your life?

Suggestions for group and individual use:

1. Pray aloud the "Opening Prayer" (in *The Roman Missal* called the "collect").
2. One person read aloud the gospel.
3. Each read prayerfully "Reflecting on Living the Gospel" and spend some time in personal prayer.
4. Share together responses to "For Reflection."
5. Pray the "Closing Prayer."

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Announcements
09/18/21 to 09/19/21

Financials: Last Week 09/08/21-09/14/21

Weekly Collection Goal \$2400	Total \$4144.00 Over \$1744.00	
In Church	\$ 2264.00	
OnLine Giving	\$ 1030.00	
Mail In	\$ 850.00	

Today Second Collection is for Catholic University. Catholic University's motto – GOD Is My Light- is a constant reminder of origin and mission. For 134 years, it has served as a guide as the University educates students who go on to serve the nation and transform the world. During the onset of the pandemic last year, and now as we work to rebuild a new future, the University is serving those in need such as with a crisis response fund to support students facing hardship because of the pandemic. Mahalo for your generosity.

Bread Baking Day is this coming Tuesday, September 21st. Your assistance is needed on Sunday to help configure the hall. On Tuesday morning, more hands are needed to help out with this endeavor. Proceeds help with our operational expenses. Thank you for your support.

Next weekend, Second Collection is for the Maintenance Fund.

Have a Blessed Week!