

Cycle B – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Oct. 13, 2024

(All Three Readings)

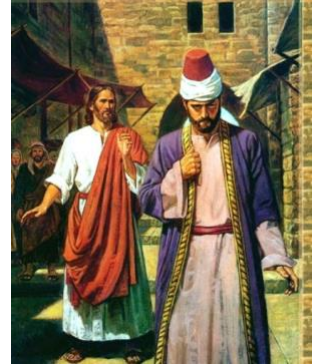
Opening Prayer (Psalm 90)

Leader: Teach us, O Lord, to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

All: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Leader: Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and you glorious power to their children.

All: Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us.
and prosper for us the work of our hands.



First Reading – Wisdom 7: 7-11

While historical research dates the text of the Book of Wisdom much later than King Solomon, it is often attributed to him and indirectly refers to his prayer for wisdom in 1 Kings 3:5-9. In this passage, Wisdom is personified as female and considered the supreme gift to be preferred over all others. Wisdom is contrasted with worldly riches, and even surpasses physical well-being and attractiveness in value. A few verses later, Wisdom is described as “a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of God’s goodness.”

1. What part of this reading speaks to you the most?
2. Read 1 Kings 3:6-9. If you were Solomon, what would you ask of God?
3. What gift do you prefer over all others?

Second Reading – Hebrews 4: 12-13

This passage from the Letter to the Hebrews stresses the ability of God’s word to discern and judge thoughts and intentions of the heart. It is preceded by verses that claim those who believe in Christ may enter God’s “rest.” (cf vs. 4:11) The text contrasts hardness of heart and disobedience with vulnerability. God’s word distinguishes good from evil and aids human discernment. The divine word penetrates the deepest recesses of the human heart.

1. What speaks to you most in this passage?
2. What does it feel like to know that nothing is hidden for God, “but all are naked and laid bare?”
3. Have you ever experienced the piercing power of God’s Word as described in this passage?

Gospel – Mark 10: 17-30

Jesus has three important points in this passage: 1) the story itself of the rich young man; 2) a teaching on wealth and God's reign; 3) assurance to those who surrender their possessions. Moving and well-known, this story in fact challenges the Hebrew belief in Jesus' time that wealth was a sign of God's favour. On the contrary, Jesus explains to his disciples that wealth and God are frequently at odds with each other.

1. What part of this passage touches you the most?
2. How relevant is the message of this passage for our affluent culture today?
3. How do you reconcile having wealth and the demands of our faith obedience to God?
4. Have you ever experienced a conflict similar to the rich young man in this passage?

Praying the Word

Intention: For all who enjoy the riches of this world and for their willingness to share their possessions with those in need. We pray to the Lord.

(Invite personal intentions, ending with the Lord's Prayer)

Concluding Prayer

Leader: If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
who could stand?

All: Fill our hearts, O Lord, with the desire,
to place all we possess at your disposal and service.

Leader: Fill us with compassion for the poor,
and show us the way to follow you
by letting our wealth be used by you, O God.

All: Help us to share with others out of the riches
you give us each day.
We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.

AMEN

(Let us Share a Sign of Peace)