

Cycle B – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Oct. 20, 2024

World Mission Sunday

(Gospel Only)

Opening Prayer (Psalm 33)

Leader: The word of the Lord is upright,
and all His work is done in faithfulness.

All: The Lord loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

Leader: Our soul waits for the Lord;
He is our help and shield.

All: Let Your steadfast love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in You.

Gospel – Mark 10: 35-45

It seems that “power struggles” were part and parcel of the Christian community from the very beginning. The request from the sons of Zebedee, as recorded in Mark’s Gospel, is completely inconsistent with the discipleship Jesus invites them to embrace. Jesus responds to them with three distinct pronouncements: 1) they will surely suffer, 2) allotting places in God’s reign is not Jesus’ job, and 3) leadership ought to be exercised completely contrary to the worldly ways, i.e. in surrender to mutual service.

1. What part of this passage do you identify with the most?
2. Have you ever been involved in power struggles? How was this resolved?
3. Can you identify with the disciples who are not “getting it?” Give an example.
4. Why does Jesus’ definition of leadership continue to be a hard call, including in today’s church?

Praying the Word

Intention: For all called to leadership in the church, both ordained and lay, as they strive to grow in Jesus’ vision of uncompromised service to God’s people. We pray to the Lord.

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

Concluding Prayer

Leader: Jesus, servant of God and humanity,
teach us the spirit of true servanthood in all our ways.

All: **We confess pride, jealousy and competition
all of which obstruct our growth in holiness.**

Leader: Grant that we may always conform our will to yours,
and serve your people with humility and sincerity of heart.

All: **Teach us to become great in your eyes
by becoming small and unassuming in the eyes of the world.
We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord. AMEN**

(Let Us Share a Sign of Peace)