

## Cycle B – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Oct. 6, 2024

*“... Let the little children come to me ....”  
(All Three Readings)*

### Opening Prayer (Psalm 128)

*Leader:* Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,  
who walks in his ways.

*All:* You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands,  
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

*Leader:* Thus shall you be blessed who fear the Lord.  
The Lord bless you from Zion.

*All:* May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.



### First Reading – Genesis 2:7, 15, 18—24

Today’s passage is the second of two accounts of how human beings were created. When God notices that it is not good for “*ha adam*” (a name meaning earth person), to be alone, the woman is created, not from the earth, but from Adam’s very self, a fact Adam himself recognizes.

1. What part of this reading speaks to you the most?
2. What does this reading tell us about the institution of marriage?
3. God created every living creature “out of the ground,” except the Woman: why do you think that is?

### Second Reading – Hebrews 2:9—11

The author of this letter is concerned with portraying Jesus as the crowning of creation. Christ is the single and definitive mediator between God and humanity, superior to all others, including the angels. Jesus Christ was “made lower than the angels” only temporarily, for the sole purpose of sharing our human condition. This complete solidarity allows Jesus to address us as brothers and sisters.

1. What speaks to you most in this passage?
2. How do you think the utter humiliation of the cross can result in eternal glory?
3. Does our suffering on earth automatically result in eternal glory? Share the reasons for your answer.

## **Gospel – Mark 10:2—16**

This discussion on divorce in Mark is found in all three synoptic Gospels. Jesus upholds the original divine plan of the indissolubility of marriage, citing the Mosaic exception as a concession to human weakness. In typical Gospel-of-Mark fashion, Jesus follows this up by privately instructing the disciples. Immediately following this heavy discussion Jesus gives the example of a child.

1. What part of this passage touches you the most?
2. How would you explain this passage to someone who has suffered through a divorce?
3. How should one preach on this passage?
4. Why do you think Jesus used the example of a child immediately following this heavy discussion on divorce?

### **Praying the Word**

*Intention:* For all who suffer from broken relationships, both in marriage, in the family, in the wider community. We pray to the Lord.

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

### **Concluding Prayer**

*Leader:* Within your will, O Lord,  
all things are established.

**All:** For you have made all things,  
the heaven and the earth,  
and all that is within them.

*Leader:* Pour out your mercy, O Lord,  
upon our hardness of heart.

**All:** Help us to love justly in all relationships  
and to honour one another  
with child-like joy and simplicity.  
We make this prayer through Christ, our Lord.  
AMEN

*(Let us share a sign of the peace of Christ)*