



“For this reason the Church has always venerated the Scriptures as she venerates the Lord’s Body. She never ceases to present to the faithful the Bread of Life, taken from the one table of God’s Word and Christ’s Body.” Dei Verbum, 21

## **Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Reading 1 - Ezekiel 18, 25-28**

**Responsorial Psalm 25: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9**

**Reading 2 - Philippians 2: 1-11**

**Gospel - Matthew 21: 28-32**

### **Reading 1 - Ezekiel**

Only the father, since he committed extortion and robbed his brother, and did what was not good among his people—he will die because of his sin!

! You say, “The LORD’s way is not fair!”\* Hear now, house of Israel: Is it my way that is unfair? Are not your ways unfair?

26

When the just turn away from justice to do evil and die, on account of the evil they did they must die.

27

But if the wicked turn from the wickedness they did  
and do what is right and just, they save their lives;  
28

since they turned away from all the sins they  
committed, they shall live; they shall not die.

**What is at the root of the assertion that the Lord's  
ways are not fair? Are God's ways fair?**

**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Remember your mercies, O Lord.**

Your ways, O Lord, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior.

Remember that your compassion, O Lord,  
and your love are from of old.  
The sins of my youth and my frailties  
remember not;

in your kindness remember me,  
because of your goodness, O Lord  
Good and upright is the Lord;  
thus he shows sinners the way.  
He guides the humble to justice,

and teaches the humble his way.

## Reading 2 - Philippians

If there is any encouragement in Christ, any solace in love, any participation in the Spirit, any compassion and mercy,

2

complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart, thinking one thing.<sup>a</sup>

3

Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.<sup>b</sup>

4

each looking out not for his own interests, but [also] everyone for those of others.<sup>c</sup>

5

Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus.<sup>\*</sup>

6

Who,<sup>\*</sup> though he was in the form of God,<sup>d</sup> did not regard equality with God something to be grasped.<sup>\*</sup>

7

Rather, he emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,  
coming in human likeness;\*  
and found human in appearance,e

8

he humbled himself,f  
becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross.\*

9

Because of this, God greatly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name\*  
that is above every name,g

10

that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,\*  
of those in heaven and on earth and under the  
earth,h

11

and every tongue confess that  
Jesus Christ is Lord,\*  
to the glory of God the Father.

How does this reading compliment the first reading?  
With Jesus as our model, what are we to do to  
emulate Him?

parallel verse: Isaiah 45

For thus says the LORD,

The creator of the heavens,  
who is God,  
The designer and maker of the earth  
who established it,  
Not as an empty waste\* did he create it,  
but designing it to be lived in:  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

19

I have not spoken in secret  
from some place in the land of darkness,  
I have not said to the descendants of Jacob,  
“Look for me in an empty waste.”  
I, the LORD, promise justice,  
I declare what is right.

20

Come and assemble, gather together,  
you fugitives from among the nations!  
They are without knowledge who bear wooden idols\*  
and pray to gods that cannot save.

21

Come close and declare;  
let them take counsel together:  
Who announced this from the beginning,  
declared it from of old?  
Was it not I, the LORD,  
besides whom there is no other God?  
There is no just and saving God but me.

22

Turn to me and be safe,  
all you ends of the earth,  
for I am God; there is no other!

23

By myself I swear,  
uttering my just decree,  
a word that will not return:  
To me every knee shall bend;  
by me every tongue shall swear,<sup>g</sup>

Gospel - Matthew

“What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today.’

29

He said in reply, ‘I will not,’ but afterwards he changed his mind and went.

30

The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go.

31

\* Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you.

32

\* q When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him.

Who is Jesus comparing the chief priest and elders to in this parable, the first or the second son?

Is there anything in your life that you are giving “lip service” to but have not truly changed in your heart?