

Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME—November 3, 2019

First Reading — Wisdom 11:22—12:2

²² Because the whole world before thee is like a speck that tips the scales, and like a drop of morning dew that falls upon the ground. ²³ But thou art merciful to all, for thou canst do all things, and thou dost overlook men's sins, that they may repent. ²⁴ For thou lovest all things that exist, and hast loathing for none of the things which thou hast made, for thou wouldst not have made anything if thou hadst hated it. ²⁵ How would anything have endured if thou hadst not willed it? Or how would anything not called forth by thee have been preserved? ²⁶ Thou sparest all things, for they are thine, O Lord who lovest the living. 12:1 For thy immortal spirit is in all things. 2 Therefore thou dost correct little by little those who trespass, and dost remind and warn them of the things wherein they sin, that they may be freed from wickedness and put their trust in thee, O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14

R. (cf. 1) I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

I will extol you, O my God and King,
and I will bless your name forever and ever.
Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.

Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and holy in all his works.

The LORD lifts up all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

R. I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God.

Second Reading — 2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2

11 To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfill every good resolve and work of faith by his power, **12** so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. **2:1** Now concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our assembling to meet him, we beg you, brethren, **2** not to be quickly shaken in mind or excited, either by spirit or by word, or by letter purporting to be from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.

Gospel Reading — Luke 19:1-10 **1** He entered Jericho and was passing through. **2** And there was a man named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector, and rich. **3** And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. **4** So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. **5** And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." **6** So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. **7** And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." **8**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord,
“Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the
poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything,
I restore it fourfold.” 9 And Jesus said to him,
“Today salvation has come to this house, since
he also is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son
of man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

INVITATION TO REFLECT

INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

First Reading — Wisdom 11:22—12:2

1. In this passage, what characteristic of the Lord is most encouraging to you?

Second Reading — 2 Thessalonians 1:11—2:2

2. What does it mean to be “worthy of his call?”

Gospel Reading — Luke 19:1-10

3. How much trouble would you go through to learn of Jesus?
4. What obscures your viewing Jesus? In what ways do you obscure Jesus for others?
5. Who are the Zacchaeuses in your life who are waiting for an invitation to dine with Jesus living in you?

INVITATION TO ACT

Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.

CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.