

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME —SEPTEMBER 6, 2020

## First Reading — Ezekiel 33:7-9

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked man, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way; he shall die in his iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

## Responsorial Psalm

**PS 145:17-18, 19-20, 21**

**R. (18) The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

The LORD is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

He fulfills the desire of those who fear him,  
he hears their cry and saves them.

The LORD keeps all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

May my mouth speak the praise of the LORD,  
and may all flesh bless his holy name forever and  
ever.

**R. The Lord is near to all who call upon him.**

## Second Reading — Romans 13:8-10

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not kill, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this

sentence, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

## Gospel Reading — Matthew 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

## 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 —

1. Describe your responsibility to warn others about the consequences of sinful behavior.
2. What place does your opinion have in this process?

#### Second Reading —

3. How does a life of individualism, isolation, and unconcern for others make us debtors to our faith community?
4. How do you feel about this characteristic of love, that “does no wrong to a neighbor”?

#### Gospel Reading —

5. Explain what you think “sins against you” means and what it doesn’t mean.
6. What is the motivation for using this process of reconciliation?
7. Where does authority reside in this situation?
8. When and why should others be involved in the resolution of personal conflicts?

### 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.*