

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home
The 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 10, 2021

“...I pleaded, and the spirit of
wisdom came to me.”

– Wisdom 7:7

“All things are possible for God.”

– Mark 10:27

Have you ever been overwhelmed by Jesus’ teachings? Love your enemies; pray for your persecutors. Offer no resistance to injury. When a person strikes you on the right cheek, turn and offer him the other. In giving alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Store up treasure in heaven. Forgive without limit. Do not turn away the borrower. Sell what you have and give to the poor. Judge not, lest you be judged. Become as little children. Love one another as I have loved you. Repent and believe the good news. The early disciples had this same experience in today’s Gospel.

Our first reading is the prayer traditionally attributed to Solomon, who was not a perfect man or king, we learn that he realized the importance of God and of Wisdom above all other things in his life. With his priorities aligned correctly, he prayed not for wealth or health or an extended and prosperous reign, but for gifts that would make him a better person. The spiritual posture with which Solomon came before the Lord can be an example for all who rely on God. Without a “shopping list,” he prayed.

As we listen to today’s Gospel, we can sense that Jesus’ disciples were taken aback by the challenge he extended to the man with many possessions. Their surprise was even greater when Jesus told them how difficult it is for the rich to enter God’s kingdom:

“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle
than for one who enter the is rich to kingdom of God”
(Mark 10:25).

Mark tells us they were amazed and exceedingly astonished. Theirs was a world where riches were regarded as a blessing from God for the just and upright. Wealth offered security and a sense of well-being. To give all that up seemed senseless. But Jesus was inviting those who would be his own to find the basis of their security and well-being not in fleeting riches or possessions, but in him. Could they do that? Did they even want to do that? The dismay of the disciples is clearly reflected in their question to Jesus: “Then, who can be saved?” (v. 26)

There is a detail unique to Mark in today’s Gospel that might escape our attention. Mark tells his readers that when the man came to Jesus with his question, Jesus looked at him and loved him (v. 19). With Jesus, discipleship is always a partnership. He is indeed Lord and God, and he is also our Brother, Friend, Teacher and Yokemate who looks at each of us with a love that strengthens and supports us.

We are not told the end of the story about the man with many possessions. He went away sad, says Mark, which leaves us to wonder what became of him? Perhaps Jesus’ look of love drew him back. Perhaps he was able to shift his basis of security to Jesus. Perhaps Mark’s unfinished story might encourage us to be firm in following the One who always looks at us with love.

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Prelude: Center yourselves first by singing along with “He has the Power (in his Hands) by Leon C. Roberts sung by the Illiana A Cappella Choir:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ashLJEePDcA>

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

Penitential Act

Lord Jesus, you are the source of all wisdom:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you are the living and effective Word:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the friend and champion of the poor:

Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

God of wisdom,

whose word probes the motives of our hearts,
with you all things are possible.

Let worldly treasure not keep us from Jesus,
who looks on us with love. Free us to leave all things and follow him,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. **LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN.**

Then move on to this Sunday's readings:

Readings for the Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time October 10, 2021

1st Reading – Wisdom 7:7-11

⁷ I prayed, and prudence was given me; I pleaded, and the spirit of wisdom came to me.

⁸ I preferred her to scepter and throne, and deemed riches nothing in comparison with her,

⁹ nor did I liken any priceless gem to her; because all gold, in view of her, is a little sand, and before her, silver is to be accounted mire.

¹⁰ Beyond health and comeliness I loved her, and I chose to have her rather than the light, because the splendor of her never yields to sleep.

¹¹ Yet all good things together came to me in her company, and countless riches at her hands.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

¹² Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

¹³ Return, O LORD! How long?
Have pity on your servants!

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

¹⁴ Fill us at daybreak with your kindness,
that we may shout for joy and gladness all our days.

¹⁵ Make us glad, for the days when you afflicted us,
for the years when we saw evil.

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

¹⁶ Let your work be seen by your servants
and your glory by their children;

¹⁷ and may the gracious care of the LORD our God be ours;
prosper the work of our hands for us!
Prosper the work of our hands!

R. Fill us with your love, O Lord, and we will sing for joy!

2nd Reading – Hebrews 4:12-13

Brothers and sisters:

¹² Indeed the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow,
and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.

¹³ No creature is concealed from him, but everything is naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must render an account.

The Word of the Lord.....Thanks be to God.

Gospel – The Gospel according to Mark 10:17-30

¹⁷ As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

¹⁸ Jesus answered him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone.

¹⁹ You know the commandments: *You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; you shall not defraud; honor your father and your mother.*”

²⁰ He replied and said to him, “Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth.”

²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said to him, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have, and give to the poor and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.”

²² At that statement his face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

²³ Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!”

²⁴ The disciples were amazed at his words. So Jesus again said to them in reply, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!

²⁵ It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

²⁶ They were exceedingly astonished and said among themselves, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.” ²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “We have given up everything and followed you.”

²⁹ Jesus said, “Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel ³⁰ who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age: houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and eternal life in the age to come.”

The Gospel of the Lord.....Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

First, get into a reflective space by listening to Deborah Joy Winans leading “If I Could Help Somebody” from the “Greenleaf” soundtrack: <http://filmmusicreporter.com/2020/08/11/greenleaf-season-5-soundtrack-ep-released/>

Reflection Prompts:

Jesus asks us to not put our trust in the material things of this world.

- Have you been able to “detach”?
- What have you received in return?
- What are some challenges that we in America in the 21st century have, in light of Jesus’ teachings about wealth?

Meditation Prompt:

- Sit quietly and ask God for the gift of Wisdom. How could God’s answering this prayer become a joy center in your life?

Then move into this week’s prayers of the faithful.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – October 10, 2021 28th Sunday of the Church Year

Presider: Let us pray for the needs of this gathered community and for our world.

Worship Leader

1. For the church, for all of us, for courage to embrace Jesus’ command: “Go sell what you have and give to the poor,” to use our wealth for the sake of the Gospel. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.** (RESPOND: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**)
2. For those who serve God’s people in leadership: may they always prefer God’s wisdom over wealth, power, and honor. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
3. For transformation of the hearts of our national leaders: may those hearts be opened to wisdom from on high and to collaborating on issues for the sake of the Common Good. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**

4. For a selfless concern for the well-being of all to move those who are hesitant to soon receive an anti-Covid vaccine. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
5. For wisdom to flow from the new Legacy Museum in Montgomery, that it will shine a light on the tragic history of racial injustice and inform the debate on how to heal these wounds. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
6. For the success of our Moving Forward in Faith campaign to build a new spiritual home. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
7. For an end to the Death Penalty and Human Trafficking, especially in Georgia. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
8. For our Stephen Ministry, its leaders, and all Care Team members and receivers here at Lourdes. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
9. For all our loved ones in the military and their families, that they be returned to us safely and experience a welcoming community. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
10. For all who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those listed in our bulletin and prayer book, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know God's mercy and our care. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
11. For all the dead, that they see God face to face, especially Wallace G. Roberts, for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**
12. Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Give us Wisdom, O God.**

Presider: Loving and patient God, fill our stubborn hearts with immeasurable grace as we seek the gift of wisdom and surrender our resistance to allow you to be our priority in all we do, think, and say.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. LET THE CHURCH SAY.....AMEN!

Sing or recite “The Lord’s Prayer.”

Then, behold this classic – “Lord, I’m Available to You,” Rev. Milton Brunson & the Christ Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chicago, IL:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eopVmm_uvHQ

Closing Prayer

Let your tireless grace accompany us, Lord God, let it go before us and follow after, that we may never slacken in our resolve to pursue the practice of good works.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN.

Closing Song

“This Is the Day,” Leon C. Roberts

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK3XmctnEmE>